DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 419 637 RC 021 496

AUTHOR	Napton, L. Kyle; Greathouse, Elizabeth A.
TITLE	The Altaville Schoolhouse: Community and State Cooperation in Local Historical Resource Preservation. CDF Archaeological Reports, Number 19.
INSTITUTION	California State Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection, Sacramento.
PUB DATE	1997-04-00
NOTE	140p.; Approximately half of the document consists of photographs, figures, and reproductions of archive materials that may not reproduce well.
AVAILABLE FROM	Coyote Press, P.O. Box 3377, Salinas, CA 93912; Web site: http://www.CoyotePress.com ($6.25 plus $3.00 shipping; CA residents add 7.25% sales tax).
PUB TYPE	Historical Materials (060) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC06 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	Agency Cooperation; *Archaeology; Community Cooperation; Educational History; Elementary Education; Local History; *One Teacher Schools; Preservation; Rural Schools; *School Buildings
IDENTIFIERS	Artifacts; California (Calaveras County); Historical Landmarks; *Historical Preservation

ABSTRACT

This report documents the archaeological investigations conducted at the former site of the Altaville Schoolhouse in Calaveras County, California. These investigations were carried out through the cooperative efforts of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Calaveras County Historical Society, and the local community. The schoolhouse is the only one-room brick school building remaining in the Mother Lode area of California. It is California Historical Landmark Number 499, and in 1979 the schoolhouse was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1996, the 330 artifacts excavated were examined, identified, and cataloged. The first part of this report narrates the history of the schoolhouse: its construction in 1858 through its closure in 1950; its protected state from 1950-81; its relocation and renovation; and its current condition. The second part of the report gives an overview of the structural, educational, and cultural specimens obtained by archaeological investigations at the original site. The major part of the document consists of: 29 historical photographs of the school; 16 figures of school artifacts; a 330-item catalog of artifacts; newspaper and magazine reprints; copies of relevant documents, correspondence, legislation, maps, and blueprints; and chapter 7 from "Calaveras, the Land of Skulls" (R. C. Wood) describing state and county schools and teachers in California, 1855-59. (Contains 33 references.) (SAS)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

RC

ED 419 637

The Altaville Schoolhouse: Community and State Cooperation in Local Historical Resource Preservation

By:

L. Kyle Napton, Ph. D.

and

Elizabeth A. Greathouse, M. A.

in association with
California State University, Stanislaus
Institute for Archaeological Research
Turlock, California

For:

The California Department of Forestry
and Fire Protection

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND
DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL HAS
BEEN GRANTED BY

Daniel G.
Foster

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

1

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION
CENTER (ERIC)

☑ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

● Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

CDF Archaeological Reports
Number 19

April, 1997

RC 021496

The Altaville Schoolhouse: Community and State Cooperation in Local Historical Resource Preservation

By:

L. Kyle Napton, Ph. D.

and

Elizabeth A. Greathouse, M. A.

CDF Archaeological Reports
Number 19

Published by:

State of California
California Department of Forestry
and Fire Protection
Archaeology Office
P. O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460
(916) 653-0839

Pete Wilson
Governor
State of California

Douglas P. Wheeler
Secretary for Resources
The Resources Agency

Richard A. Wilson
Director
California Department of Forestry
and Fire Protection

ALTAVILLE SCHOOL

PREFACE

I am pleased to see this excellent report on the Altaville Schoohouse come to print in the ***CDF Archaeological Reports*** series. This is an amazing story of how a state agency, a county historical society, and local participants can work together to save a piece of California's history. In 1983, this old brick schoolhouse was in terrible shape. A large corner of the double-walled building had fallen and the entire structure was in danger of total collapse. Through the diligent efforts of many people, the building was relocated, restored, and put back into service. However, the archaeological work which I started was never completed. I am grateful to Dr. Napton and Elizabeth Greathouse for their willingness to take on the task of producing this report on archaeology of the Altaville Grammar School.

All of the artifacts, field notes, photographs, maps, records, and other material collected during the 1983 study had been stored in several archive boxes at the CDF Archaeology Office in Sacramento, but these had received little attention over the years. Luckily for CDF, Dr. Napton recognized the importance in completing the documentation for the project and agreed to take it on in spite of the absence of any available financial assistance. The authors did an excellent job of documenting the cooperative effort between CDF, the Calaveras County Historical Society, and the numerous local participants which led to the building's restoration, but the cooperative effort did not end there. Their willingness to volunteer the time necessary to complete this study and rekindle interest in a remarkable historic schoolhouse is a gesture for which CDF is sincerely grateful.

The next time you pass through the Mother Lode region, look for the Altaville Schoolhouse right along Highway 49 in a pleasantly-shaded spot on the outskirts of town. You may even want to stop and take a look. The fully restored building and a large sample of its glorious history exists due to the efforts of many people who helped save it, including the authors of this report.

Daniel G. Foster
Senior State Archaeologist
April 28, 1997

Table of Contents

Frontispiece: Rendering of Altaville School by D. R. Wilhelm. . . iii
Acknowledgements. . . vi
Abstract. . . vii
Introduction. . . 1
The Community of Altaville, Calaveras County, California . . 2
    The Altaville Schoolhouse. . . 3
    History of the Altaville Schoolhouse. . . 4
The Archaeological Collection. . . 15
Concluding Discussion. . . 19
Notes. . . 21
Literature Cited. . . 22

Appendix A: Artifact Catalog. . . 58
Appendix B. . . 70

List of Tables and Figures

Table 1: Altaville Schoolhouse Artifacts. . . 17

Figure 1: Altaville School exhibited on USGS Angels Camp 7.5' Quadrangle. . . 26
Figure 2: Altaville Grammar School Location Map. . . 27
Figure 3: Altaville Forest Fire Station Master Site Plan. . . 28
Figure 4: Map of Altaville Fire Station. . . 29
Figure 5: Historical School Relocation. . . 30
Figure 6: Townsend's 1978 Map of Altaville Grammar School . . 31
Figure 7: Map of Calaveras Schools . . 32
Figure 8: The two Altaville school houses prior to 1950. . . 33
Figure 9: Altaville School teacher Mayme Duffy's pupils pose in 1911. . . 33
Figure 10: The Altaville School on the CDF grounds ca. 1981 . . 34
Figure 11: Altaville School in original location . . 35
Figure 12: Altaville School in original location on CDF grounds . . 36
Figure 13: Altaville School in the process of being moved in 1983 . . 37
Figure 14: Altaville School in the process of being moved . . 38
Figure 15: Altaville School being moved, observed by Eldred Lane . . 39
Figure 16: Baseline Crew undertake restoration . . 40
Figure 17: CDF Fire Crew Supervisor Alan Stovall and members of the Calaveras County Historical Society view restoration . . 41

List of Tables and Figures (continued)

Figure 18: Restoration of the Altaville School in progress 42
Figure 19: Formal dedication of the Altaville School, April 21, 1984 . . . 43
Figure 20: Formal dedication of the Altaville School, April 21, 1984 . . . 44
Figure 21: Altaville School dedicated. 45
Figure 22: Altaville School, north elevation, November 1996. 46
Figure 23: Altaville School, south elevation, November 1996. 46
Figure 24: Altaville School, east elevation, November 1996. 47
Figure 25: Altaville School, west elevation, November 1996. 47
Figure 26: Altaville School, north and east elevations, November 1996. . . 48
Figure 27: Altaville School, southeast elevation, November 1996. . . . 48
Figure 28: Members of CSUS ANTH 4605 on corners of former location. . . 49
Figure 29: Members of CSUS ANTH 4605 at the Altaville School. . . . 49
Figure 30: Altaville School Artifacts: #107, #108, slate pencils. 50
Figure 31: Altaville School Artifacts: #100, #105-108, #320. 50
Figure 32: Altaville School Artifacts: #200-209, #210-219. 51
Figure 33: Altaville School Artifacts: #21-25, #30-34. 51
Figure 34: Altaville School Artifacts: #230-239, cut nails. 52
Figure 35: Altaville School Artifacts: #240-247, cut nails. 52
Figure 36: Altaville School Artifacts: #110, bottle fragment. 53
Figure 37: Altaville School Artifacts: #87, bottle fragment. 53
Figure 38: Altaville School Artifacts: #51, #50. 54
Figure 39: Altaville School Artifacts: #202, #221, #231. 54
Figure 40: Altaville School Artifacts: #97, #98, horseshoes. 55
Figure 41: Altaville School Artifacts: #326, horseshoe. 55
Figure 42: Altaville School Artifacts: #327, axe head. 56
Figure 43: Altaville School Artifacts: #164, #194, #103, #191, #102. . . . 56
Figure 44: Comparison of Slate Pencils from the Altaville School and the Columbia State Historic Park Museum. 57
Figure 45: Closeup of Slate Pencils from the Columbia Museum. . . . 57

Acknowledgements

The writers thank Dan Foster, Archaeologist, California Department of Forestry, Sacramento, for asking us to undertake study of the Altaville schoolhouse artifact collection. We also thank Bill Ray, CSUS Archaeology, for his help during the laboratory phase of artifact analysis. We received a great deal of enthusiastic assistance from Lorrayne Kennedy, Archivist, Calaveras County Archives. We also are grateful to the Calaveras County Historical Society, Barbara Beaman, President, Sheryl Waller, Office Manager, and Kate Culver, Assistant Office Manager. We thank Mr. W. P. Fuller, Jr. for reviewing a draft of this report.

We were assisted during our visit to the Altaville school by Betty Snyder, Calaveras County Historical Society, Tad Folendorf, Altaville, and Jeff Sanders, Altaville CDF Fire Station. Columbia State Historic Park Rangers Sharon Grout and Diana Newington also provided research assistance. California State University, Stanislaus, students who participated in study of the Altaville School included Yvette Benavidez, Joanna Law, Kelly Morrow, Tony Rocha, Stan Strain, Chris Tucker, and Chris Yohannan.

Abstract

This report documents archaeological investigations conducted at the former site of the Altaville Schoolhouse, located in the community of Altaville, Calaveras County, California. Constructed in 1858, for more than a century the schoolhouse stood on a knoll overlooking nearby Highway 49. In 1983 the building was moved a short distance to its present location next to the highway where, as an important historical resource, it can be viewed and visited by the citizens of Calaveras County and by numerous visitors to the Mother Lode region who travel Highway 49. It is California Historical Landmark Number 499, and in 1979 it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The artifacts recovered by investigations at the former site of the schoolhouse were obtained by the writers through the offices of Mr. Dan Foster, Archaeologist, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), Sacramento. Mr. Foster's excavations were conducted April 20, 1982, before the building was moved. In 1983, after the building was moved to its present location, additional excavations in the area enclosed by the foundation were undertaken by crews from the CDF Baseline Camp. In all, 330 artifacts were found. In 1996 Mr. Foster asked the writers if they would be interested in examining the collection, identifying the specimens, completing the specimen catalog and preparing a report on the results of their studies, as part of a program of historical resources investigations conducted by the writers for CDF during the past several years. The study was duly undertaken; the results are reported here.

In addition to discussing the collection the writers considered that it would be useful to bring together basic information pertaining to the history of the schoolhouse. During the course of this "background research" it became evident that the exemplary cooperative efforts of CDF, the Calaveras County Historical Society, local industries and businesses, and the citizens of Altaville had resulted in an extraordinarily successful example of preservation of an important local historical resource -- the Altaville schoolhouse. This was accomplished by saving the building from destruction, due in no small measure to the interest in the structure shown by CDF Captain McGee and other CDF officials, and of course is largely due to the efforts of members of the Calaveras County Historical Society, who spearheaded the effort to save the building and restore it to its former appearance as an early-day one-room schoolhouse. Thanks to the fact that it is constructed of red brick, it is truly a fine example of the proverbial "little red schoolhouse" -- certainly one of the finest buildings of its type in California, if not in the United States.

THE ALTAVILLE SCHOOLHOUSE: COMMUNITY AND STATE COOPERATION IN LOCAL HISTORICAL RESOURCE PRESERVATION

> *They came in their usual desultory fashion -- the fashion of country schoolchildren the world over -- irregular, spasmodically, and always as if accidently...appearing from ditches, behind trunks, and between fence rails; cropping up in unexpected places along the road after vague and purposeless detours -- seemingly going anywhere and everywhere but to school!*
>
> --Bret Harte[1]

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to document archaeological investigations conducted at the former site of the Altaville Schoolhouse, located in the community of Altaville, Calaveras County, California. Constructed in 1858, for more than a century the schoolhouse stood on a knoll overlooking nearby Highway 49 (Figures 1-7). In 1983 the building was moved a short distance to its present location next to the highway where, as an important historical resource, it can be viewed and visited by the citizens of Calaveras County and by numerous visitors to the Mother Lode region who travel Highway 49. It is California Historical Landmark Number 499, and in 1979 it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The artifacts recovered by investigations at the former site of the schoolhouse were obtained by the writers through the offices of Mr. Dan Foster, Archaeologist, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), Sacramento. Mr. Foster's excavations were conducted April, 20 1982, before the building was moved. In 1983, after the building was moved to its present location, additional excavations in the area enclosed by the foundation were undertaken by crews from the CDF Baseline Conservation Camp. In all, 330 artifacts were found. In 1996 Mr. Foster asked the writers if they would be interested in examining the collection, identifying the specimens, completing the specimen catalog and preparing a report on the results of their studies, as part of a program of historical resources investigations conducted by the writers for CDF during the past several years. The study was duly undertaken; the results are reported here.

In addition to discussing the collection the writers considered that it would be useful to bring together basic information pertaining to the history of the schoolhouse. During the course of this "background research" it became evident that the exemplary cooperative efforts of CDF, the Calaveras County Historical Society, local industries and businesses, and the citizens of Altaville had resulted in an extraordinarily successful example of preservation of an important local historical resource -- the Altaville schoolhouse. This was accomplished by saving the building from destruction, due in no small measure to the interest in the structure shown by CDF Captain McGee, and of course largely due to the efforts of members of the Calaveras County Historical Society, who spearheaded the effort to save the building and restore it to its former appearance as an early-day one-room schoolhouse. Thanks to the fact that it is constructed of red brick, it is truly a fine example of the proverbial "little red schoolhouse" -- certainly one of the finest buildings of its type in California, if not in the United States.

This report consists of two major sections: a compendium of information pertaining to the schoolhouse, its past history and current condition; and an overview of the specimens obtained by archaeological investigations at its former location.

THE COMMUNITY OF ALTAVILLE, CALAVERAS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Altaville is a small community located at the intersection of California State Highway 4 and Highway 49. The community owes its existence to the fact that these two major arteries of Mother Lode traffic intersect at this point in a pleasant, small valley, and a community -- originally called "Forks of the Road" -- appeared, virtually overnight, as mining towns do, following the discovery of gold in the adjacent region. At one point in its colorful past Altaville boasted a huge stamp-mill, a foundry, and even a silk farm. Gudde (1975:17) discusses the salient points of historic Altaville as follows:

> Four miles north of Angels Camp, now a part of it. Former names were Forks of the Road, Winterton, Cherokee Flat. *See* Cherokee Flat. It was important as a point for supplies and machinery. A foundry was established in 1854 by D. D. Demarest, and is still operating today as California Electric Steel (G. Poore). In the 1870s the place was the center of silk culture. Historic Landmark 228.

In reference to Cherokee Flat, Gudde (1975:69) states:

On Cherokee Creek, northwest of Angels Camp. The camp Cherokee Flat became Altaville, now a part of Angels Camp. Rich pockets "the richest in the state," were discovered here by French and Italian prospectors, February 17, 1854 (Hittell Clips, p. 56; Brown p. 70). The *Mining Press*, April 13, 1861, reports that the diggings "yield more this season than ever." However, the 16-stamp mill was already idle in 1867, according to Browne (p. 70). The famous and controversial Calaveras Skull, now in the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography, Harvard University, was discovered nearby (Smithsonian *Report*, 1899, pp. 454 ff.).[2] See Bret Harte's story "To the Pliocene Skull." In this region the bandit Murieta played such an important role that Joaquin Mountain, northwest of the creek, was named for him (Ridge, p. 124; Demarest, p. 4). The creek is shown on the USGS Jackson 1939 quadrangle.

The Altaville Schoolhouse

Among the many notable historical features in and around the community of Altaville, California, is the Altaville Schoolhouse, constructed in 1858 and, by all accounts, one of the oldest one-room schoolhouses surviving in the Mother Lode region of California (Calaveras County History Society 1986). The Altaville schoolhouse is not only one of the oldest of the one-room schoolhouses, it is probably one of the best preserved examples of its type. Its survival is due to several fortunate circumstances: first, it was constructed of brick, whereas many of the early-day schoolhouses were built almost entirely of wood; second, it was used until as late as 1950; third, after it ceased to be used as a school it was preserved for its historical value, thanks to the fact that it was located on the grounds of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection within the compound of CDF's Altaville Forest Fire Station; lastly, it has been restored to its present excellent condition through the efforts of the Calaveras County Historical Society and interested citizens of Altaville and the surrounding region.

The school stood in its original location on CDF property until 1983 (Figures 8-11), when it was moved a short distance to its present location on an attractive, landscaped hillside adjacent to Highway 49 (Figures 12-16). The move was desirable for a number of reasons, including the fact that the building was badly deteriorated (CDF personnel removed the bell from the bell tower to save it in case the building collapsed), and interested persons who came to view the schoolhouse were potentially endangered by fire response operations, as well as a consequence of their own actions (smoking near fuel storage tanks). Hence, it was the consensus of those interested in the future of the schoolhouse that if the restored building were relocated next to

Highway 49 it would be much more accessible to Altaville visitors and travellers along the principal route through California's historically important Mother Lode region (Figures 17-29). Today the historic Altaville Schoolhouse stands as a reminder of days gone by, when children walked or rode mules or horses to school and were educated in the classic "little red schoolhouse" which the building so well typifies.

History of the Altaville Schoolhouse

The Altaville schoolhouse has passed through four major "phases" during its lengthy existence. The first phase was from its construction in 1858 through its active use as a school and closure in 1950; the second from 1950 to 1981, when it was protected by CDF; the third when it was moved to its present location and renovated; the fourth as it exists today, fulfilling its present status as an important Calaveras County landmark, California State Historical Landmark (Number 499) and property listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Phase One: The Schoolhouse Era

The Altaville schoolhouse was constructed as a result of the great interest displayed by citizens of the Altaville area, Calaveras County, and, indeed, of the Mother Lode region in general, in educating their children. Rather than waiting for action to be taken by the "government" or some other agency, the self-reliant citizens of many early-day localities took it upon themselves to organize school districts and find ways and means to finance worthy projects, such as constructing schools, hiring teachers and operating the schools year after year. Mace (1991:241 ff.) has pointed out that sometimes, early-day schooling took place in churches, which were normally used only on Sunday. The church served as a school; the parson or his wife acted as the teacher. The first school in Calaveras County was probably located in the Methodist Church of Fort John (Kenfield 1995; Wood 1955).

In 1851 the California legislature laid out the framework for a public school system (Cloud 1952; Ferrier 1927, 1937; Ferris 1962; Hendrick 1980; Stone 1916). The program established school districts and authorized election of a three-member "school committee" in each district, whose purpose it was to supervise school affairs, collect and disburse funds, build or provide schoolhouses, examine and appoint teachers, and report to the superintendent annually. In 1855 the governor signed a bill providing for election of a county superintendent. In 1853 Calaveras County began collecting funds to support their local schools. The Altaville School District was not the first in the county -- 14 such districts were organized in Calaveras County between

1855 and 1858; the Altaville School District was established February 2, 1859.

In 1986 members of the Calaveras County Historical Society published an important and in many respects unique book titled *An Album of the Pioneer Schools of Calaveras County*. By means of this noteworthy book members of the Calaveras County Historical Society compiled and preserved important historical information about early-day schooling, schools, teachers and other aspects of Calaveras County history pertaining to elementary education. The compilers, notably Bessie McGinnis and Eva Soracco, state that the original plan of the *Album* was to display a collection of historical photographs of pioneer elementary schools in Calaveras County, but fortunately it was decided to include information about school districts as well as brief discussions regarding teachers and pupils. The Altaville School is the first described; early-day photographs are included (examples are reproduced in this report). The text pertaining to the Altaville schoolhouse is as follows:

> The Altaville School District was officially formed from a part of the Angels District in February, 1859. Apparently the schoolhouse was already under construction, for an item in the *San Andreas Independent* of January 8 stated: "The new schoolhouse is nearly completed. It stands upon a beautiful natural eminence and presents quite a pleasing ornament as well as a useful appendage to the town."
>
> Two acres of land were donated for the school by M. D. Harmon. A substantial portion of the funds used to erect the building were raised at a dance held in the billiard room of the H. R. Prince building in Altaville. Various socials were organized to finance the furnishings of the new school. John Ward, Davis Demarest, and Gitchell Bregg were elected as trustees. There were soon ninety-two pupils enrolled, ranging in age from five to seventeen years. Mr. W. W. Durham was the first teacher employed. Miss M. J. Clayes taught the lower grades.
>
> The building was sturdily and attractively constructed of brick that had been manufactured in a local kiln. It measured twenty-four feet wide and thirty-six feet long. This schoolhouse is a good example of the importance early residents placed upon the education of their children. It served not only as a school, but also as a center of community activities for several generations. A second building of wooden construction was added later, close by the brick schoolhouse, and was used for the upper grades. There were two teachers at Altaville, hardly enough for the large enrollment.
>
> In 1950, the two old buildings were closed and Altaville became part of

the Mark Twain Elementary School District. The property was purchased by the California Division of Forestry (as it was then known) and the wooden building was removed. Recently the brick schoolhouse has been moved closer to the highway and restored under sponsorship of the Calaveras County Historical Society. It became Historical Landmark No. 499 in 1955, and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

Altaville Teachers, 1899-1912: J. B. Kennedy 1899-1901; Lizzie Hannon 1899-1903; William L. Redding 1901-1909; David Brown 1909-1910; Loretta Kaler 1907-1912; Mayme C. Duffy 1901-1912.

The *Album* includes a seven-page "historical perspective" of the pioneer schools of Calaveras County, which is an excellent summary. We take the liberty of quoting portions of it here:

> As early as 1851, the California Legislature set up the framework for a public school system. This provided for the election of a three-member school committee in each district to supervise school affairs, disburse funds, build or provide schoolhouses, examine and appoint teachers, and report to the state superintendent each year. . . By 1855, there were some six schools or schools districts in the county. . . Newer, smaller districts were carved out of the older, larger ones as residents of growing communities, particularly in rural areas, petitioned for their own schools. By the year 1902 this process had reached its peak with some fifty-seven school districts in operation. . . The compelling reasons for so many schools, most of which were small and of the one-room type, was the desire to have a school within walking distance for each family. This was considered to be not over two or three miles, but if the children came by mule or horseback, or in "hitches" from ranch to ranch, up to five miles was tolerated.
>
> . . . .
>
> There were no prescribed plans and specifications for school buildings, and each district had to provide the best schoolhouse possible with the available funds supplemented by donations of materials and labor. However, tradition and practicality produced surprisingly similar structures, although the size was varied to fit the local situation. These buildings were oblong in shape, with a simple gable roof. There were generally three windows on each side, and larger schools often had one or two windows in the front and rear. Many of the smaller schools had two front doors, although one was more typical. Some sort of porch was constructed in front, with railings and with front steps. Although

generally not part of the original design, a lean-to shed was in most cases built onto the rear wall of the school for the storage of wood and other supplies, and it was sometimes large enough to serve as a shed for any horses used by the teacher and pupils. Other schools might have a separate shed for this purpose. Most schools had a belfry and a bell, although a number of districts could not afford this luxury. Many buildings, especially in the lower country, were equipped with the traditional shutters with the upper portion hinged to open upwards for protection from the rain and sun, and the lower part to open outward for better lighting.

Generally, schools were built on sloping ground, although a few were fortunate enough to have a flat site. Following the custom of the day, no grading of the site was done, and foundations were simply rocks to provide support for the underpinnings. Only a few schools had walled-in foundations. Graded playgrounds were unheard of, and the hillsides were considered quite adequate for the outside activities of children brought up in the hilly and mountainous country.

Structurally, especially in the rural districts, the schoolhouses left much to be desired. Few of them used double-wall construction. A number of the smaller buildings had simple board and batten siding, although clapboard siding was popular with the better-built structures. Although painting was considered unnecessary, communities took pride in the school's appearance.

Most schools had at least some slate blackboards. A wood stove was essential for heating. Simple shelves, hooks, and often just nails were sufficient for lunch boxes and outside clothing. Often the desks were made by local carpenters. Water was obtained from the nearest spring, or from the school well, if such had been provided. There was a bench, generally, for a common wash basin, and for a water bucket with a dipper used by everyone. There was, of course, no inside plumbing.

. . . .

Before the [school] board had been organized, parents bought books, slates, and slate pencils, and later paper and lead pencils, for their children. The same books were often used by all the children in a family as they progressed through school.

The compilers of the *Album* discuss the reasons underlying the gradual decline of the one-room schoolhouse, particularly in Calaveras County and of course elsewhere in the Mother Lode and other rural districts. They note that after the Gold Rush there was a substantial decline in the population of Calaveras County, but the underground gold mining "boom" that began in the 1880's and continued until World War I tended to reverse the trend. After the war, as mining decreased in importance, people moved away from rural areas and sought employment in cities, since there were declining employment opportunities in the Mother Lode region. A low point in this trend was reached in the mid-twenties. The *Album* continues:

> This demographic situation had a great effect upon the pioneer schools. School population declined, and with a shrinking tax base, revenues became ever smaller. There was simply insufficient cause and money with which to continue so many small schools. During the eight years that Teresa Rivara was county superintendent (1915-1922), ten rural schools were suspended, six to be closed permanently and four reorganized, to last only a short time longer.
>
> After the reopening of the gold mines in the depression years of the 1930's, there began a steady rising trend in county population which is continuing today, but for different reasons. With improving transportation and housing, the new residents settled in the towns, and the rural population continued to decline. . . One by one the smaller schools were closed, and some of the districts were "unionized"; that is, two or more small districts would be combined. . . In 1951, Mother Lode Union joined with Altaville to become Mark Twain Elementary District.
>
> . . . .
>
> These little schools, mostly one-room, of very simple construction and sparingly equipped, were presided over by a remarkable group of dedicated teachers, many of whom had no more than a ninth-grade education. Yet this rudimentary school system was surprisingly effective in doing the job required, even with the frugal finances provided it.

The *Album* provides a good summary of the schools districts of Calaveras County in order of formation, and we see that Altaville was not the first (that honor apparently goes to Angels, organized prior to 1855) but was among the 17 schools formed between 1855 and 1860. Thus, 17 schools were created within a five-year period. Many of these same 17 schools either lapsed or became "unionized" in 1955 or 1971 (two, including Altaville, in 1951; six in 1955; three in 1971).

In many ways the gradual decline of the need for one-room schoolhouses in Calaveras County (and the Mother Lode region in general) directly reflects dynamic population and economic factors that played a major part in shaping the development of central California. During the 1850s the Gold Rush brought an enormous influx of people to the region (Holliday 1981), but after the initial "rush" people drifted to the agricultural lowlands or took up homesteads in the Mother Lode region and turned to farming -- the beginning of the era of the self-sufficient farmer, an era which continued (as some aver) until the coming of World War I. Other factors, such as the economic boost provided by underground mining, produced population surges in many mountain counties. World War II and the post-war production of automobiles and four-wheel drive vehicles played a major part in altering rural demographics: people were able to work in one region and commute to another, a trend that continues to the present day, as demonstrated by the fact that the Mother Lode region has become a haven for retirees and a refuge for those who desire to "get away from it all."

It is probably fair to say that the circumstances that occasioned development of the celebrated one-room schoolhouses in the Mother Lode country and elsewhere are in most respects gone forever. Early-day California schooling is documented in few publications (Bolton and Mack 1992; Cleland 1944; Mace 1991; Settle 1939; Wood 1955; 1978b). It is through such documentation and the preservation of structures from the era typified by the Altaville schoolhouse that the past becomes tangible; the teachers and their pupils seem not far distant; memories of better times live on.

In recent years a welcome contribution to Calaveras County history is a series of articles published by O. H. Mace (1991). Mace's book consists of 47 short articles originally published in the *Calaveras Enterprise* as weekly columns about people and events around Calaveras County.[3] Mace devotes a single but informative article to education in the county, a chapter titled "All the World in a Single Room." Mace notes that Coke Wood states that the first school was organized in the Methodist church-tent in Mokelumne Hill in 1852. "The minister's wife, Mrs. Isaac Fish taught five children three hours a day, for the rather hefty sum (for the time period) of $75 a month." Mace tells us:

> In most small town schools of the 19th century, students from 8 grades were taught by a single teacher in the same room. Those working on the same level would be seated in the same general area of the room, and while the teacher gave individual instruction to that group, the other grades were involved in written assignments or study.
>
> . . . . . .
>
> The subjects taught were basic and general: reading, penmanship, English, arithmetic, science, history, and geography. For upper grades, the

curriculum might have been expanded to "specifics" such as biology, chemistry, American history, literature, etc.

The school day generally ran from 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. All grades took "recess" for 30 minutes mid-morning and another half-hour was allowed for lunch, which everyone brought from home in a bag or box. The restrooms were "out houses" -- one for the boys and one for the girls. Drinking water came from a deep well or nearby spring, and was usually "fetched" at the beginning of each day by the older boys.

. . . .

For children of a small Mother Lode community, many of whom had never ventured further than the next town, the school house was their one connection to the wide world which lay beyond.

Elliott (1885:26) published a series of community histories between 1876 and 1893. During the period 1890 to 1891 Elliott produced the remarkable total of 20 regional histories, often called "mug books or subscribed editions" (Wood 1978a). Elliott's little book on Calaveras County is rather less a history than a "promotion" book extolling the attributes of Calaveras County as a land of undeveloped resources, which Elliott (1885:12) considered "almost inexhaustible," a remark that represents the attitude of the time (that the western frontier and its resources were unlimited). Elliott has little to say about the schools of Calaveras County, although one of the plates in the work cited (Elliott 1885:26) shows the public schoolhouses in Angels, Murphys, and Mokelumne Hill.[4]

In Chapter 8 of *Calaveras, Land of Skulls*, Wood (1955) discusses schools in Calaveras County. In reference to the Altaville School, Wood (1955:123) gives the following information:

> ALTAVILLE--Scholars between 4 and 18 years of age, 92. Teachers: Miss M. J. Clayes and W. W. Durham. Trustees: J. Ward, A. Gardner, C. S. Rieves.

Phase 2: The Altaville Schoolhouse and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

In the 1950s the Altaville schoolhouse site was acquired by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. As noted above, CDF removed the newer frame building which was one of the Altaville schools, but did not destroy the old brick schoolhouse, which even then was regarded by CDF personnel and many other citizens of Altaville as an important historic structure. Local and CDF interest in the structure is manifested in a document prepared by former CDF Captain James R. McGee pursuant to nominating the structure as a historic resource. The following is quoted *verbatim* from a Historic Resources Inventory form prepared January 15, 1981, by Mr. McGee, Fire Captain, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Altaville, California:

> The old Altaville Grammar School is the only one room brick school building remaining in the Mother Lode area of California. Altaville is now a part of Angels Camp, an incorporated town whose population is about 3,000. Both Altaville and Angels Camp had their beginnings in the Gold Rush Days and the population was greater in the past than at the present time. Tourism is an important industry in this historic area as it is sixty miles from Stockton, seventy miles from Sacramento, a little over one hundred miles from the San Francisco Bay area.
>
> The Altaville School was built in 1858 with funds raised at a dance in the Billiard Saloon of the N. R. Prince Building in Altaville. At the present time the State of California owns the property on which the school stands. There are no other property owners adjacent to the school.
>
> The building which measures 24' x 34' has an area of 816 square feet. The school area is 0.084 acres. The building is constructed of red brick that was kilned in the area. It has white wood trim on the gable and the sides under the roof line. The roof slants two ways, forming a 90 degree angle at the gable, front and rear. The walls are two bricks wide. There is a door in the center front of the building with a window on each side of the door. There is a small window in the gable below the door. Bricks above the door and windows are placed in a vertical position, commonly spoken of as "eyebrow" detail. The roof line suggests Greek influences and the cornices have white trim extending to the front of the building, that add architectural interest.
>
> There are three windows on each side of the building, with one window and two doors at the rear. The "lean-to" of wood lumber that was added to the rear of the building to serve as a cloak and storage room was removed in 1975. A brick chimney is at the center rear of the building. The windows are all boarded up at present.
>
> The interior of the building has wood wainscoting on the lower three feet of the walls. A plaster board material was installed on the upper walls in the early

1900's. Blackboards covered sections of the walls. The ceiling is about twelve feet high, with the floor about sixteen inches above the ground. Floorboards are placed lengthwise of the room. Electric lights were installed sometime in the 1900's. Oil lamps were used originally. The shingle roof of the structure was covered with galvanized roofing years ago. The belfry has a four sided shingle roof and the louvered sides protected the bell that called children to school for nearly one hundred years.

The building is in fair condition but is in need of immediate repair. The bricks at one rear corner of the building have become dislodged and have fallen to the ground. The building is in the National Register and is worth saving. However funds are needed to refurbish this piece of our heritage [McGee 1981].

Historical Resources Inventory Form; *Significance* (continuing McGee [1981]):

The Altaville School is worthy of preservation because it is the only one room brick school building remaining the Mother Lode of California. It was built in 1858 in what was then an important gold mining town, and it was used as a school for all eight grades, with as many as sixty children instructed by one teacher, then as a room for upper grades for almost one hundred years, until 1950 when it was replaced by the Mark Twain Elementary School.

The Altaville School is a good example of the importance the early residents placed on the education of their children. It was well built, attractive, and served as a center for community life for many generations. We feel it should be restored for it is a historic building and a reminder of our American Heritage. It is truly "A little red schoolhouse," and it should be preserved for future generations.

The bronze plaque that was placed on the building by the State Park Commission in cooperation with the Native Daughters of the Golden West, Princess Parlor No. 84, on May 1, 1955, states: "Brick building built in 1858 with funds raised at a dance given in the Billiard Saloon in the N. R. Prince Building (which still stands). One of the oldest schools in California, used as a school until it was replaced in 1950 by the Mark Twain Elementary School." Landmark No. 89.

Altaville Grammar School is California Historical Landmark No. 499. Address: 125 North Main, Altaville, California, 95221. Architect: Unknown.

Phase Three: The Restoration Project

In 1981 Ray Stewart, former Operations Officer for CDF (now retired from State service), outlined plans for preserving the historic schoolhouse and moving it a short distance from its original location in the CDF station's main parking area to a more accessible location on Highway 49 (Figures 1-7). As reported in the December 30th edition of the *Calaveras Enterprise* the building would be moved "brick by brick to a shaded picnic area in front of the Forestry Station." (In fact it was moved en masse; see Figures 12-16). The newspaper account states that two other state agencies would be involved in the project: approval would have to come from the State Historical Preservation Commission and the actual restoration work would be done by inmates from the State Department of Corrections Sierra Conservation Center, near Jamestown. The plan was spearheaded by Bessie McGinnis, a member of the Calaveras County Historical Society. Later (November 23, 1988) the *Calaveras Enterprise* reported the project "underway." Work had been delayed until the Historical Society received title to the property on which the school presently stands.

Many volunteers contributed to the project.[5] A major financial contributor was the Burlington Northern Foundation. Work on the interior of the school was coordinated by Arnold architect David Hitchcock. Others involved in the project included Roger Pitto of Sierra Engineering, Terry Bennett of Pioneer Construction, Tom Colter and Dave Deschryver of Colter-Deschryver Construction, Dave Kuehl Painting Contractor, Danny Kawcak, Davis John and Marshall Cristo of Homeworks Construction, and Aldie Broglio of Broglio Electric. The *Calaveras Enterprise* article notes that the "old ceiling is being removed and lumber especially milled to resemble the old wood will soon be installed." Landscaping of the school yard was undertaken by the Calaveras County Garden Club directed by Rusty Rolleri. Schoolhouse project chairperson was Sandie Cuneo.

In 1983 the *Calaveras Prospect, Weekly Citizen and Chronicle* (February 3, 1983) published a Letter to the Editor from Mrs. Betty Snyder, President, Calaveras County Historical Society, in which she clarified some of the financial issues pertaining to the project. She further stated:

> We would like to point out the generosity of Mr. Gene Deaver in providing the plans; the devotion of Bob Yohr and Ray Stewart of the CDF in preventing the loss of this fine example of gold rush architecture; the wonderful cooperation of the staff and crews of CDF and Baseline Conservation Camp in helping the project along under the supervision of Architect Bob McCabe; and finally, the dedication and enthusiasm of our own Eldred Lane as Chairman of the Altaville School Committee.

Phase 4: The Altaville Schoolhouse Today

At present the Altaville schoolhouse reposes under stately trees on the southwest side of Highway 49 (street address 125 North Main), approximately one-quarter mile northwest of the intersection of Highways 4 and 49. The structure is accessed via a well-marked turnoff, which leads uphill into a parking area. There are picnic tables adjacent to the building, which is surrounded by well-kept grounds -- a most appealing place to linger as one drives historic Highway 49. The building is looked after by Mr. Brad Pecchenino of Altaville, and is visited by many travelers along Highway 49 -- the Mother Lode's "highway through history."

Entering the building, visitors find themselves in a small "lobby" -- actually the front part of the schoolroom -- which is partitioned off from the main part of the interior. Displayed on the lobby walls are framed newspaper clippings and photographs pertaining to the history of the building, notably its removal from the CDF site to the present location (some of the principal photographs are reproduced in this report). The visitor views the restored classroom through a glass partition: one sees the early-day desks, a wood stove, blackboards and many other features that senior citizens might recall from their own school days, and that (we trust) impress today's youngsters with some of the advantages they enjoy in present-day schools -- indoor plumbing being perhaps not the least of these.

California State University Archaeological Recordation

As an exercise for the California State University field class in archaeological methods (Anthropology 4605) during Fall Semester, 1996, the senior writer brought the class to the Altaville school in order to record the present structure, observe its former location and generally become acquainted with the building and its environs as an excellent example of historical preservation. The class, consisting of six students, measured the building, drew elevations of one side and the front of the structure and photographed all four elevations, as well as oblique views of the building, showing the front and sides. The distance from the original site of the school to its present location was measured and the students obtained information from CDF personnel and local residents regarding the history of the school. In the campus laboratory the students participated in the layout and initial cataloguing of the materials, which was completed by the writers and J. W. Ray, M. A.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTION

The former site of the Altaville schoolhouse is documented on plat layouts prepared by CDF (Figures 3 and 4). In 1981 the building was moved approximately 440 feet (134 m) downhill and slightly to the northwest. The former location of the schoolhouse has been paved subsequently and is part of the CDF service yards, but the archaeological investigations in 1982 and 1983 fortunately preceded the paving.

Excavations conducted by Mr. Foster in 1982 to a depth of 30 cm yielded seven artifacts; the excavations conducted in 1983 by the CDF Baseline crew inside the foundation produced 323 specimens. The 1982 excavation (a one-meter square unit) was located on the west side of the building below the northernmost window (Foster 1982). The 1983 excavations were confined to the interior of the former foundation. Although the specimens found in 1983 were not separated by specific locus, the collection records state that all were found in or near the foundation of the structure.

The entire collection from the Altaville school excavations was unpacked at the CSUS Archaeological Laboratory, laid out, numbered, indexed, measured, weighed and catalogued and, to the extent possible or appropriate, each specimen was analyzed as to its probable or possible use and/or relationship to the school during the lengthy period when the building was in use (Appendix A). It is important to note that the building was used from 1859 to 1950 (91 years). Artifacts and other specimens that accumulated during this lengthy span of time could not be differentiated precisely as to the specific time when they were used. The collection might be said to be "destratified," so to speak: the artifacts had accumulated during nearly a century but were not differentiated stratigraphically nor by discrete depositional events. This particular problem is not at all unprecedented in historical archaeology (Deetz 1977; South 1977), nor, for that matter, in prehistoric archaeology: many sites contain artifacts that can be attributed to a general time-period, but not an exact one.

The collection obtained from the two excavations conducted at the Altaville schoolhouse includes objects of metal, including nails, horseshoes and other items; objects of wood or plaster representing pieces of the structure; and objects used by the pupils and teachers (Figures 30-43). The latter category of objects includes nubbins of chalk, the ends or ferrules from paint brushes (Figure 31), thin pieces of blackboard slate (interpreted as bits of hand-held writing slates) (Figure 31), and a rather enigmatic type of artifact which proved to be slate pencils used to write on blackboards or hand-held slates (Figures 30-33).

The artifacts from the two excavations can be separated conveniently into four general "functional" categories (Table 1): *structural, educational, cultural* and *other* (rather than describing them simply as objects of metal, wood, glass and so forth). Briefly, these categories are defined as follows: *structural* includes materials related to the construction and/or maintenance of the building, such as nails, plaster fragments, pieces of wood, and so forth. *Educational* refers of course to items such as pieces of blackboard slate, chalk, and slate pencils. *Cultural* includes items such as fragments of bottles, pieces of cut bone and fragments of crockery. *Other* subsumes the remaining items of the collection. These categories are discussed below.

Structural

The collection included numerous pieces of flat glass, very weathered or "oxidized", readily identifiable as fragments of single-pane window glass. A notable feature of the present-day schoolhouse is double-pane windows, but probably even these were occasionally broken -- perhaps, one likes to think, by mis-directed baseballs or other playground objects. However, a more prosaic explanation for the presence of broken glass may be that after the school was abandoned some of the windows were broken while the building stood empty (approximately 1950 to 1983). Broken windows were "boarded up", as Captain McGee states, to protect the interior of the building.

Metal artifacts referable to construction or maintenance of the building include numerous machine-made cut nails (so-called "square" nails) produced in America from the 1830s to the 1900s (and later), almost surely used during construction of the building (Figures 34 and 35). Other types of nails -- wire nails -- dating from the 1900s to the present (Loveday 1983; Mercer 1924; Michael 1974; Priess 1973; Nelson 1968) probably were used in the course of routine repairs made to the building. Most of these specimens are unremarkable. It is interesting to note that none of the specimens collectively or individually provide an exact date of construction -- that date is known only from historical records. The cut nails certainly are indicative of construction before 1900, but neither these nails or the other some 300 specimens in the collection impart to the investigator any idea of the *exact* age of the building. It is interesting to have the opportunity to study remains obtained from a structure of known age (both in terms of construction and abandonment): it is not particularly surprising, however, to discover that the total collection does not reveal either the beginning or end-date of the time-period represented.

Table 1:

Altaville Schoolhouse Artifacts (330)

1982 Excavation (7)

Artifact Category	Type	Quantity
Structural (5)	Milled lumber	2
	Strapping metal	1
	Wire nails	2
Cultural (2)	Crockery	1
	Glass jar	1

1983 Excavation (323)

Artifact Category	Type	Quantity
Structural (172)	Brick	3
	Cement	5
	Clay	3
	Cut nails	32
	Metal	27
	Plaster/dry wall	10
	Screws	2
	Window glass	63
	Wire nails	20
	Wood	5
Educational (109)	Chalk	11
	Desk part	1
	Eraser wheel	1
	Ferrules	2
	Slate	42
	Slate pencils	50
	Wood handle	1
	Wood pencil	1
Cultural (38)	Axe head	1
	Bone	21
	Bottle glass	5
	Cartridge	1
	Ceramic	1
	Comb	1
	Door key	1
	Horseshoes	3
	Lead shot	1
	Saw	1
	Tennis ball	1
	Thumb tack	1
Other (4)	Flake	1
	Rock	1
	Rubber	1
	Soil/rust sample	1

Educational

Items subsequently identified as slate pencils attracted general attention in the CSUS Archaeology Laboratory because they are a type of artifact that lay outside the experience of most of the student technicians who worked with the collection -- an interesting example of how everyday objects become unfamiliar as technology changes. They present a good example of how difficult it may be to identify the function of certain types of artifacts -- even those of the recent past, to say nothing of those from remote prehistoric periods. Many of the slate pencils bore obvious signs of sharpening, and several displayed spiral-pattern striations, as though they had been used in some type of holder. Several exhibit oblique parallel marks, possibly saw marks created during the manufacturing process.

We were puzzled by the fact that test slate pencils from the collection made no mark on paper, slate or other surfaces, but this is explained by the fact that they have become hard and rather brittle during the years since they were discarded. When they were new they were apparently sufficiently pliable to be sharpened and abraded or scored during use, as indicated by striations, blunting and other evidence of use-wear (Figures 30-33). Many were dulled from use; some are complete with tip and original base, but during use were sharpened and reduced to less than half of their original length. None are as long as apparently unused specimens observed at the Columbia State Historic Park Museum. The latter specimens, with their original paper wrappers intact, are 14.1 cm (5.5 inches) long, which is assumed to be their length prior to use. Three of the Columbia State Historic Park specimens examined by the authors appear to be unused. Each of these was bound by the manufacturer in a paper wrapper on which is printed a color depiction of the American flag (Figures 44 and 45).

Other objects which we classified in the "educational" category include an eraser "wheel"-- a circular rubber wheel with a metal frame and brush, a type of eraser recently manufactured (Figure 43). Included in the collection are several fragments of ordinary school chalk (Figure 43), and pieces of thin slate which are doubtless fragments of hand-held school slates (Figure 31).

Cultural

Items which were unexpected (but not, in retrospect, should they have been) include pieces of animal bone cut with butchers saws (Figures 38 and 39). It is possible that children brought pieces or cuts of meat to school with them as part of their lunches, or the bones may be remains from a community picnic or social event of years past. Another item perhaps resulting from an outing or non-school social event of some sort is the bottom of a wine or champagne bottle (identified by the obvious basal kick-up) (Figure 36). (The bottle bore no identifying markings). Other pieces of glass are also fragments of bottles; their presence may be attributed to the same hypothetical cause. Still other "cultural" items include a hand-forged single-bit axe head, much distorted (presumably from having been used as a maul) (Figure 42); the base of a cartridge (.38 caliber) (Figure 43); and a large "skeleton" key of the type that might have been used to lock the original front door of the building (Figure 43).

Included in the collection are three horseshoes, all of which have been used, as evidenced by the presence of nails still in place (Figures 40 and 41). Their occurrence is difficult to explain; one can only speculate as to why they are present. Perhaps they came from horses belonging to the teachers or some of the pupils, or they might have been among materials stored in the building after it ceased to be used as a school.

Other

This category includes a piece of rubber, a bagged sample of soil and rust, and a chert flake -- the latter possibly an isolated prehistoric archaeological specimen.

CONCLUDING DISCUSSION

Beyond the brief description provided here, the artifact collection from the Altaville schoolhouse represents a very interesting example of structure-specific and activity-specific remains from an early-day building, and so may prove useful in elucidating other collections from buildings that served unknown or multiple purposes. By arrangement with Mr. Foster and CDF, representative artifacts will be given to the Calaveras County Archives, where they may be preserved for study by others.

There is a considerable amount of documentation pertaining to the Altaville school, notably a large scrapbook compiled by the late Eldred Lane, which includes photographs of the building in the process of being moved and restored. This and other materials pertaining to the Altaville school are housed in the Calaveras County Archives. We have included a selection of the relevant documents in this report (Figures 10-21 and Appendix B).

We have seen that the Altaville Schoolhouse stands as an appropriate monument to early-day California public education, and is tangible evidence of the civic pride of the citizens of Altaville. During the formative years in the Mother Lode the public played a crucial role in organizing school districts, constructing schoolhouses, hiring teachers, and generally operating a system which today, of course, is largely a function of city and county governments. The Altaville schoolhouse, renovated and attractively situated, is a notable component of the historical heritage of Calaveras County. That it has been saved for the enjoyment and edification of present-day and future generations is a high tribute to all those who participated in this worthy endeavor.

Notes

1. The writers are indebted to Mr. O. H. Mace, who cited the quotation from Bret Harte's *Cressy* (Harte 1889).

2. The "Calaveras Skull" was claimed to have been found in a mine shaft located between Altaville and Angels Camp. Found in 1866 (about the same time that significant "early-man" discoveries were being made in Europe) it is likely that the skull was intended as a "practical joke" but came to be regarded as extremely ancient by credulous laymen and scientists alike. The skull, which saw the light of day in 1866, supposedly was discovered more than one hundred feet below the surface in a mine shaft on Bald Hill (Whitney 1867, 1880). Because it supposedly came from such a great depth and was encrusted with calcareous materials it was regarded by contemporary scientists as ancient, although Holmes (1902), Hrdlička (1907) and others argued that such claims were without merit -- which has indeed proved to be the case (Dexter 1986; Taylor et al. 1992:269-275).

3. For the senior author part of the appeal of Mace's weekly articles published in the *Calaveras Enterprise* regarding people and events in Calaveras County owes to the fact that his father did much the same thing in Bozeman, Montana, where for many years, writing as the "Roving Reporter," L. W. Napton gathered a great deal of historical information, anecdotes, pioneer reminiscences and so forth, compiling material that surely would have been lost to posterity had he not done so. Another, similar effort to document local history in the Mother Lode region is manifested by Larry Cenotto's writings about Amador County history (Cenotto 1980).

4. The Murphys schoolhouse is shown in early-day photographs reproduced in the *Album* (Calaveras County Historical Society 1986:64); it was still in use in 1986 for extension classes. The first Mokelumne Hill schoolhouse burned in 1874 and was replaced by a two-room schoolhouse which was used until 1964.

5. We mention the names of some of the individual volunteers and firms contributing to the Altaville Schoolhouse relocation and restoration project, as reported in the *Calaveras Enterprise* and *Calaveras Prospect* and obtained from other contemporary documents. Obviously a great many more persons and firms contributed; if they are not mentioned here the omission is unintentional. The primary purpose of this report is to present the results of archaeological study of artifacts from the school site. We also attempt, however imperfectly, to sketch the background of the project and in so doing underline the fact that the success of the schoolhouse restoration is due to the cooperative efforts of a great many individuals and organizations.

LITERATURE CITED

Bolton, E., and D. Mack

1992 Memories of Sierra: A History of Sierra District School, 1912-1950. History Project Committee, State Capital Division of California Retired Teachers Association, Sacramento.

Calaveras County Historical Society

1986 *An Album of the Pioneer Schools of Calaveras County*. Compiled and Published by Calaveras County Historical Society, San Andreas.

Cenotto, L.

1988 *Logan's Alley: Amador County Yesterdays in Picture and Prose (Vols. 1 and 2).* Cenotto Publishers, Jackson.

Cleland, R. G.

1944 *From Wilderness to Empire, A History of California 1542-1900.* New York.

Cloud, R. W.

1952 *Education in California: Leaders, Organizations and Accomplishments of the First Hundred Years.* Stanford University Press. Stanford.

Deetz, J.

1977 *In Small Things Forgotten: The Archaeology of Early American Life.* Doubleday, Garden City.

Dexter, R. W.

1986 Historical Aspects of the Calaveras Skull Controversy. *American Antiquity* 51(2):365-369.

Elliott, W. W.

1885 *Calaveras County Illustrated and Described Showing its Advantages for Homes.* W. W. Elliott, Oakland.

Ferrier, W. W.

1927 *Pioneer Church Beginnings and Educational Movements in California: Comment on a California Church History*. Berkeley.

1937 *Ninety Years of Education in California, 1846-1936: A Presentation of Educational Movements and Their Outcome in Education Today*. Sather Gate Bookshop, Berkeley.

Ferris, D. F.
1962 *Judge Marvin and the Founding of the California Public School System*. University of California Press. Berkeley.

Foster, D.
1982 [Field Notes, Altaville Schoolhouse Excavations; Data File]. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Sacramento.

Gudde, E. G.
1975 *California Gold Camps*. University of California Press, Berkeley.

Harte, B.
1889 *Cressy*. Houghton, Mifflin. New York.

Hendrick, I. G.
1980 *California Education: A Brief History*. Boyd and Fraser Publishing, San Francisco.

Holliday, J. S.
1981 *The World Rushed In: The California Gold Rush Experience*. Simon and Schuster, New York.

Holmes, W. H.
1902 *Anthropological Studies in California. Smithsonian Institution, Report of the U. S. National Museum for 1900*:15-187. Washington.

Hrdlička, A.
1907 Skeletal Remains Suggesting or Attributed to Early Man in North America. *Smithsonian Institution, Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin* 33:21-28.

Kenfield, D. G.
1955 *A History of Education in Calaveras County, 1850-1900*. M. A. Thesis, College of the Pacific.

Loveday, A. J. Jr.
1983 *The Rise and Decline of the American Cut Nail Industry: A Study of the Interrelationships of Technology, Business Organization, and Management Techniques.* Greenwood Press, Westport, Connecticut.

Mace, H. O.
1991 *Between the Rivers: A History of Early Calaveras County, California.* Gold Country Enterprises, Sutter Creek, California.

MacKinnon, R. M.
1967 *The Historical Geography of Settlement in the Foothills of Tuolumne County, California.* Master's thesis, Department of Geography, University of California, Berkeley.

McGee, J. R.
1981 The Altaville Schoolhouse. [Descriptive commentary for] Historic Resources Inventory Form. Central California Information Center, California State University, Stanislaus, Turlock, California.

Mercer, H. C.
1924 Dating Old Houses. *Old Time New England*, April 1924.

Michael, R. L.
1974 Cut Nail Manufacture: Southwestern Pennsylvania. *The Association for Preservation Technology Bulletin* VI:99-108.

Nelson, L. H.
1968 A Nail Chronology. *The American Association for State and Local History, Technical Leaflet* 48. Nashville, Tennessee.

Priess, P.
1973 Wire Nails in North America. *The Association for Preservation Technology Bulletin* V:87-92.

Settle, L. E.
1939 *"I Remember" Stories by Early California Teachers.* California Retired Teachers Association, Sacramento.

South, S.
1977 *Method and Theory in Historical Archaeology.* Academic Press, New York.

Stone, J. C.
1916 *California's Commitment to Public Education*. Crowell, New York.

Taylor, R. E., L. A. Payen, and P. J. Slota, Jr.
1992 The Age of the Calaveras Skull: Dating the "Piltdown Man" of the New World. *American Antiquity* 57(2):269-275.

Whitney, J. D.
1867 Notice of a Human Skull, Recently Taken from a Shaft near Angel's, Calaveras County. *Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences* III:277-278.

1880 The Auriferous Gravels of the Sierra Nevada in California. *Memoirs of the Museum of Comparative Zoology of Harvard College* 3(1). Cambridge.

Wood, R. C.
1955 *Calaveras, The Land of Skulls*. Mother Lode Press, Sonora.

1978a Preface. In *Calaveras County Illustrated and Described Showing its Advantages for Homes*. W. W. Elliott, Oakland.

1978b *A History of the Calaveras Region of California*. Typescript. University of Southern California Library, Los Angeles.

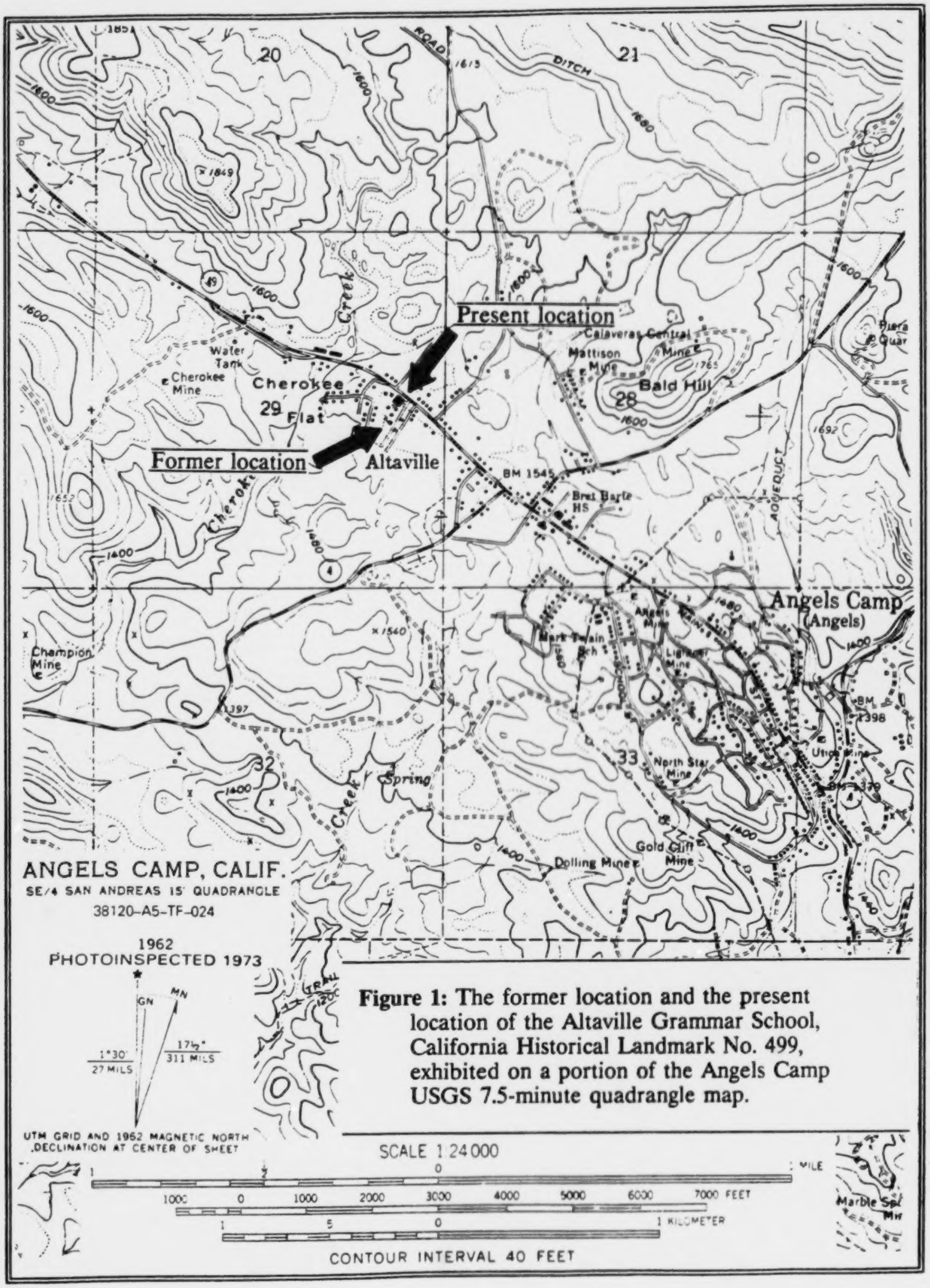


Figure 1: The former location and the present location of the Altaville Grammar School, California Historical Landmark No. 499, exhibited on a portion of the Angels Camp USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle map.

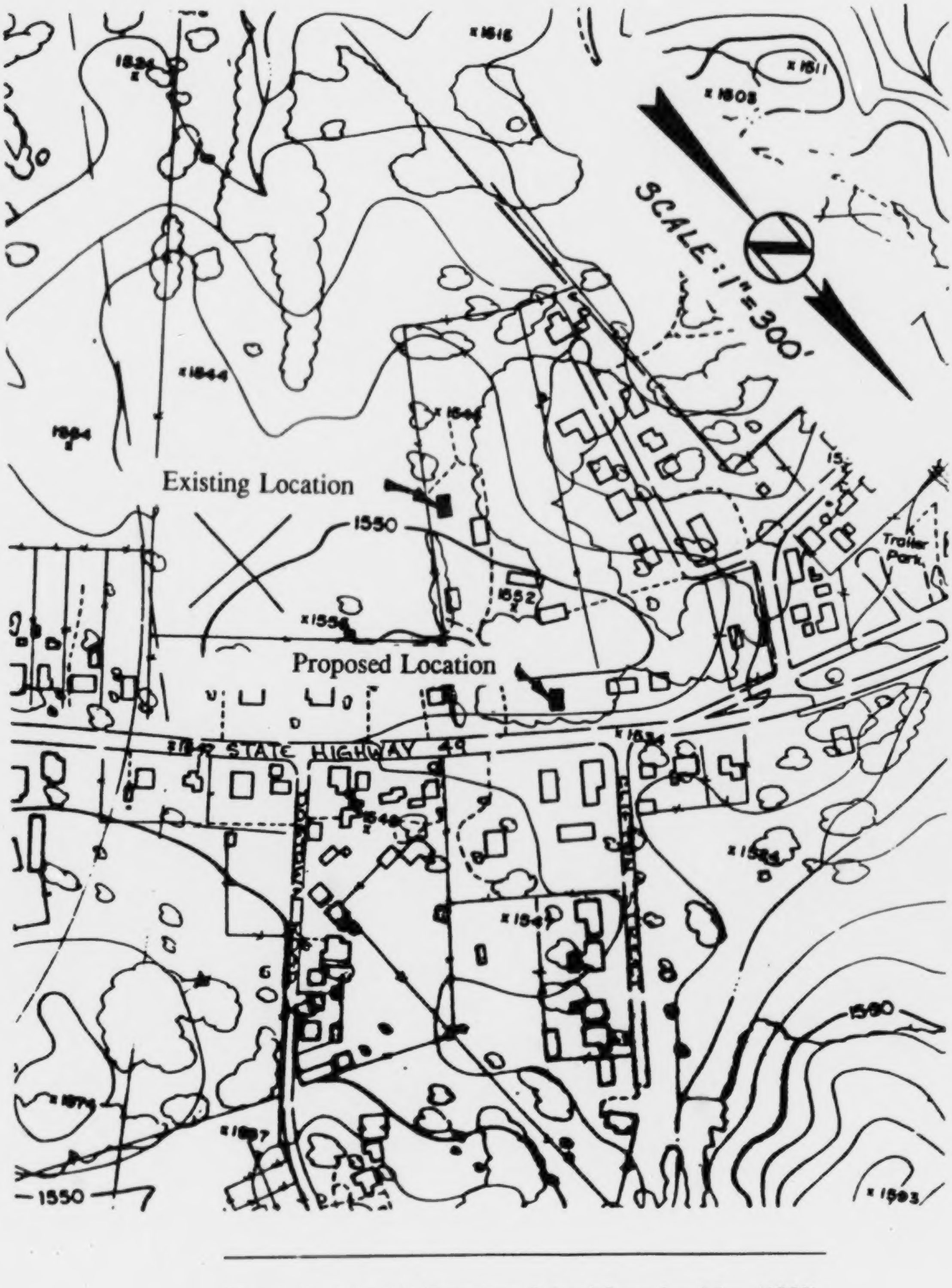
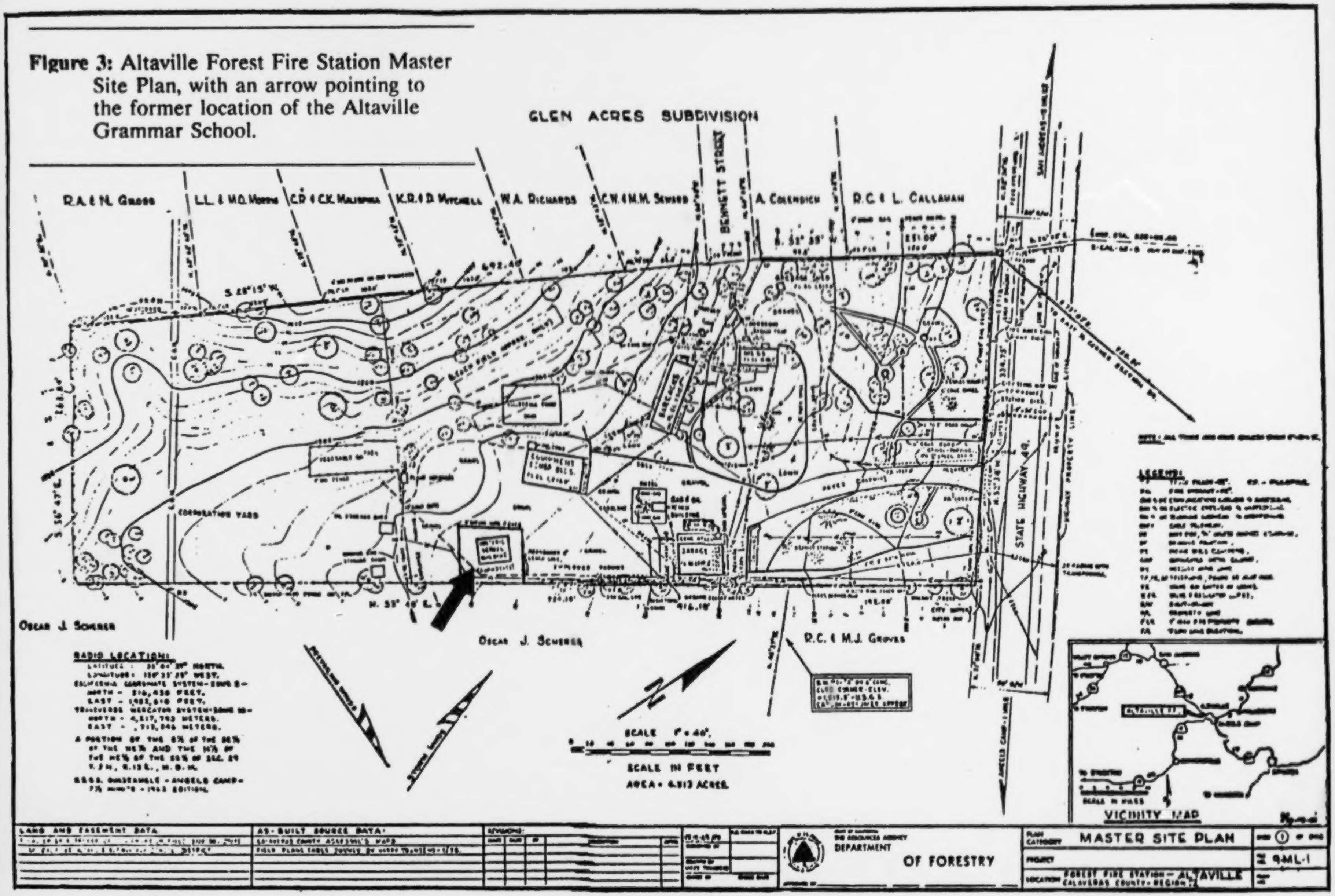


Figure 2: Altaville Grammar School Location Map (1983)

Figure 3: Altaville Forest Fire Station Master Site Plan, with an arrow pointing to the former location of the Altaville Grammar School.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

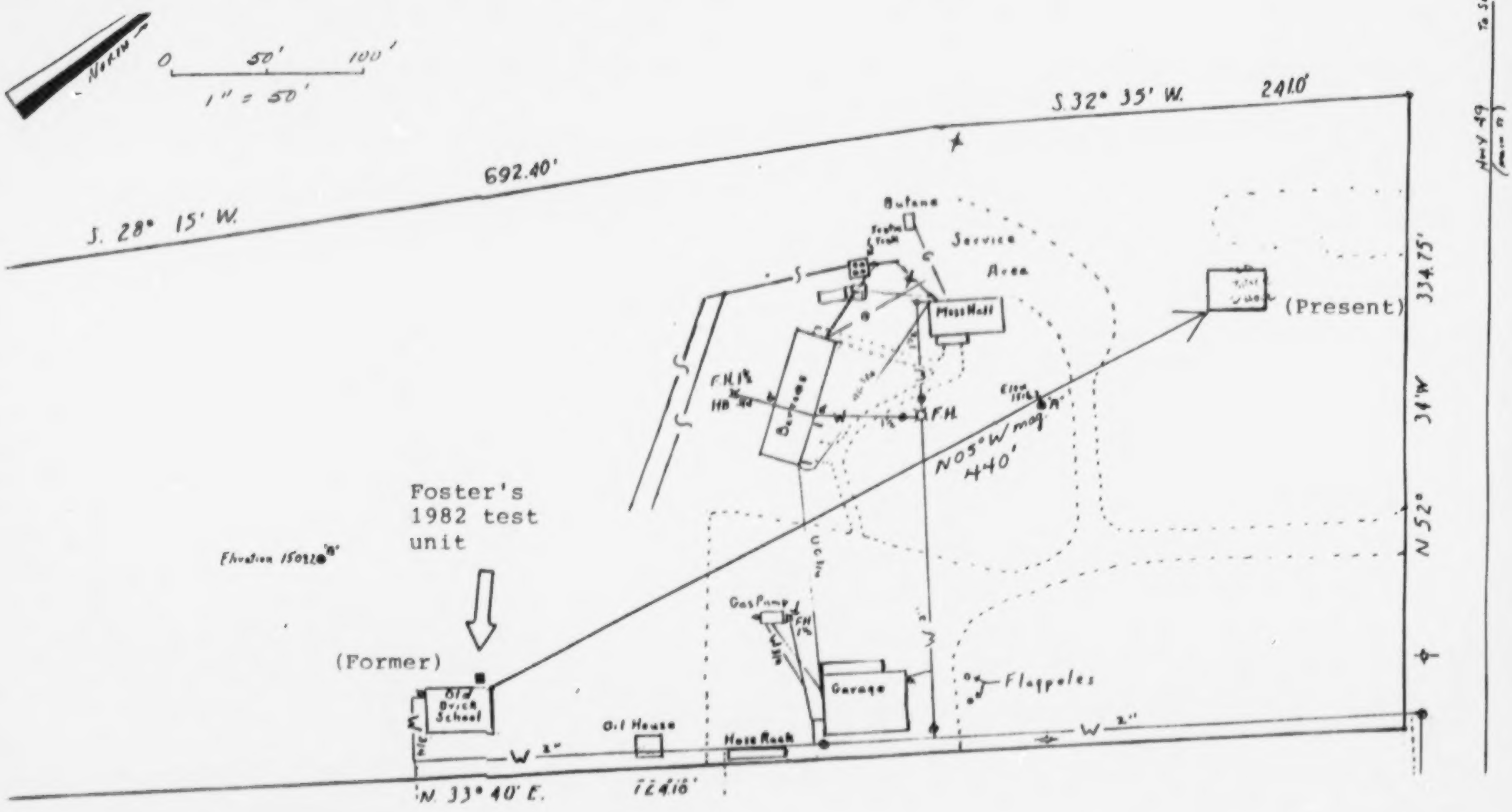


Figure 4: Map of Altaville Forest Fire Station showing the former and present location of the Altaville Schoolhouse building, and the location of Foster's 1982 one-meter square test excavation.

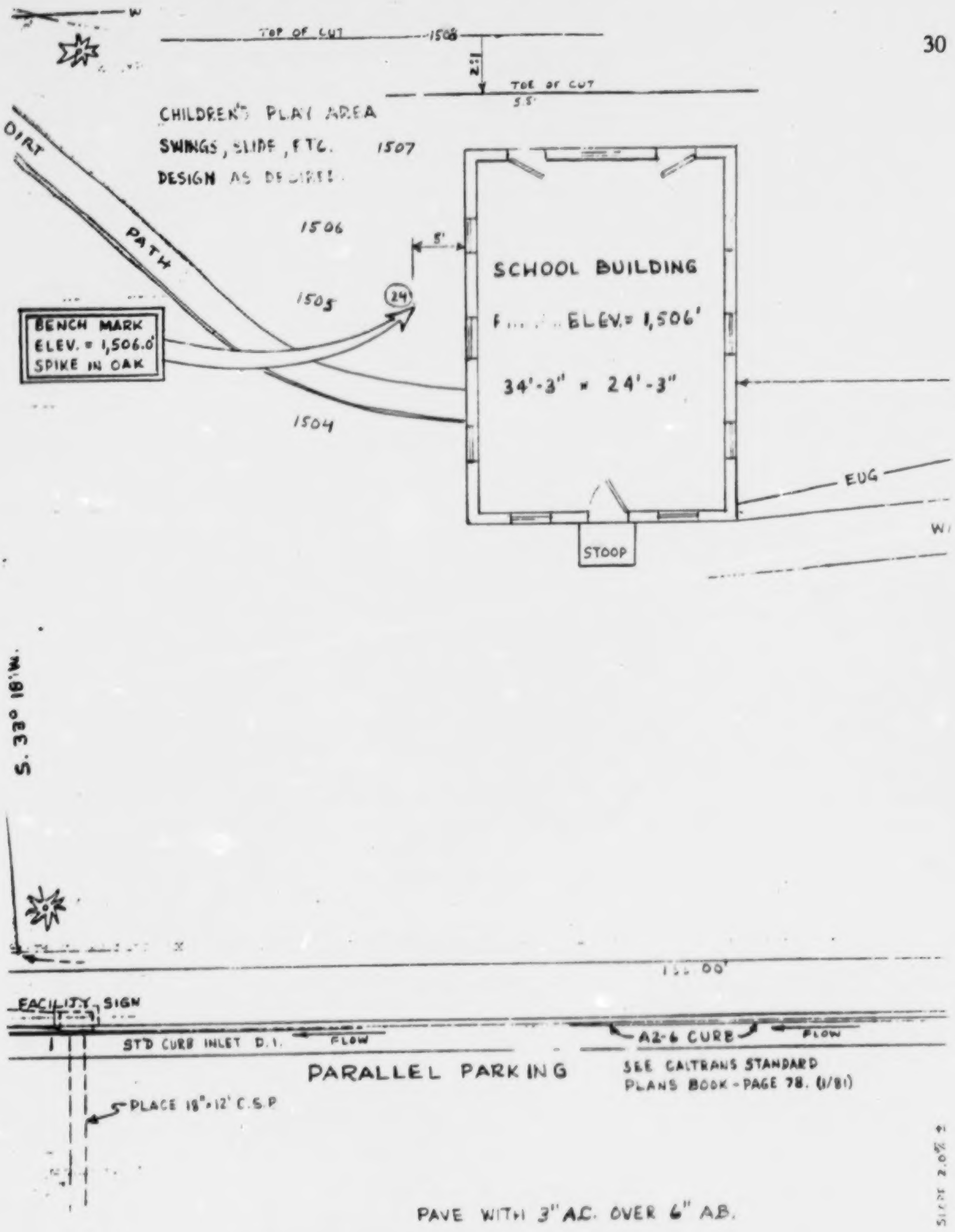
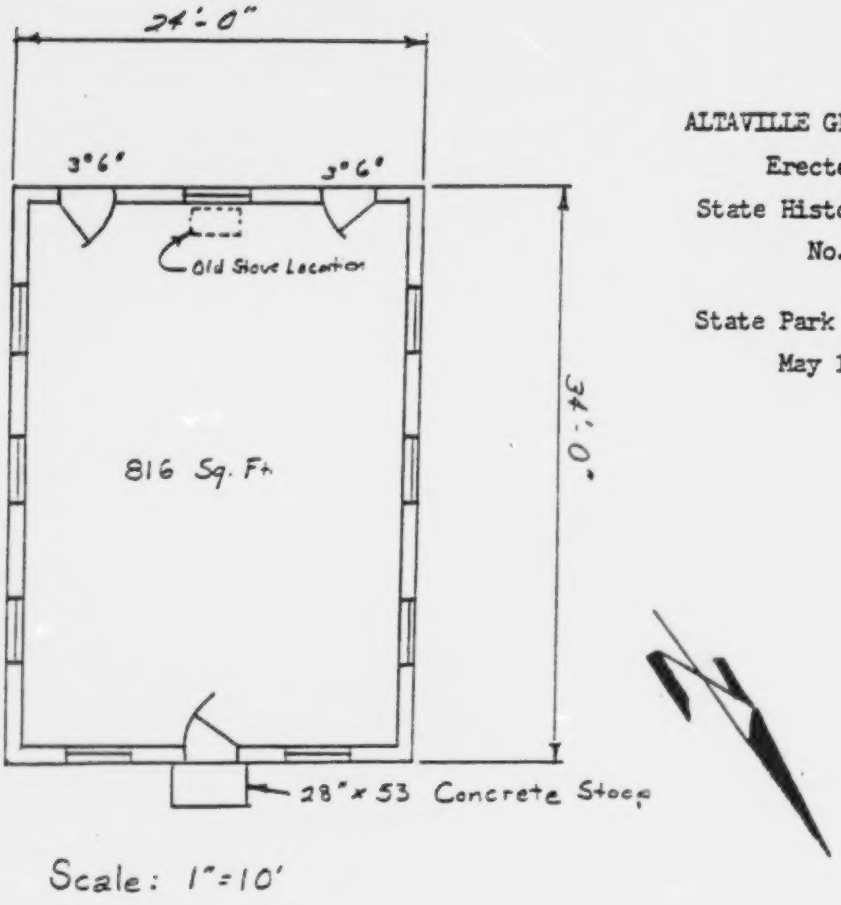


Figure 5: Portion of map entitled: "Historical School Relocation, Altaville Forest Fire Station, Calaveras County - Region IV."



ALTAVILLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Erected 1858
State Historical Landmark
No. 499

State Park Commission
May 1, 1955

Outside Wall - Double row of bricks, trim above windows and doors.
Inside Wall - Plaster board with vertical board wainscot 38" high.
Windows - Nine each casement approximately 44" x 72" high.
Floor - Wood Board, about 16" above ground elevation.
Ceiling - Wood board, about 12 feet above floor.
Roof - 6:12 Pitch, wood shingle covered with galvanized steel.

This sketch map does not include the entire boundary line; it is only a sketch of the school building. For a sketch map of the entire property the Department of Forestry's sketch map.

Harry Townsend - 11/7/78
Assistant Civic Engineer
State Dept. of Forestry

Figure 6: Assistant Civic Engineer (State Department of Forestry), Harry Townsend's 1978 map of the Altaville Grammar School.

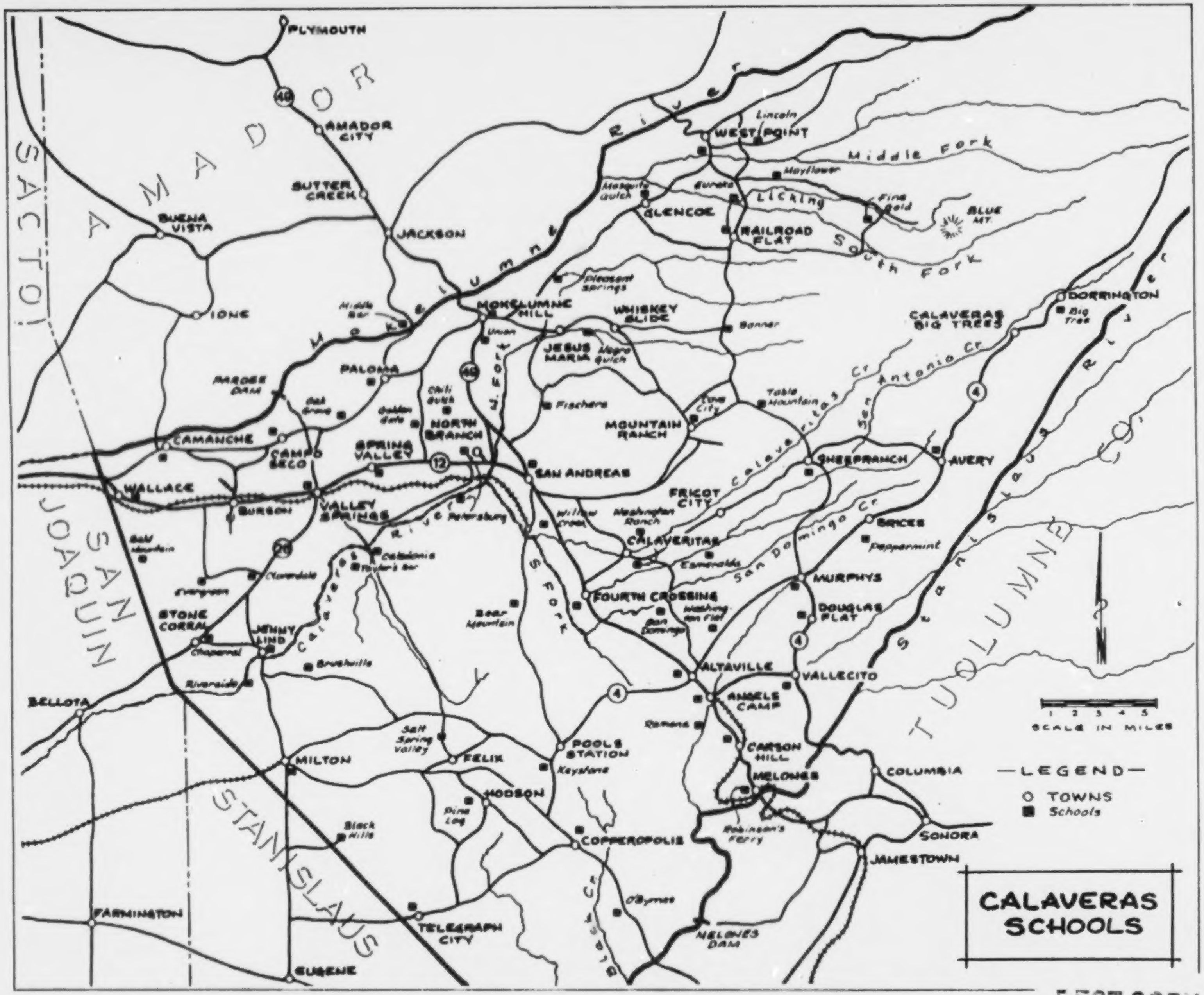


Figure 7: Map of the Calaveras Schools (Calaveras County Historical Society 1986)

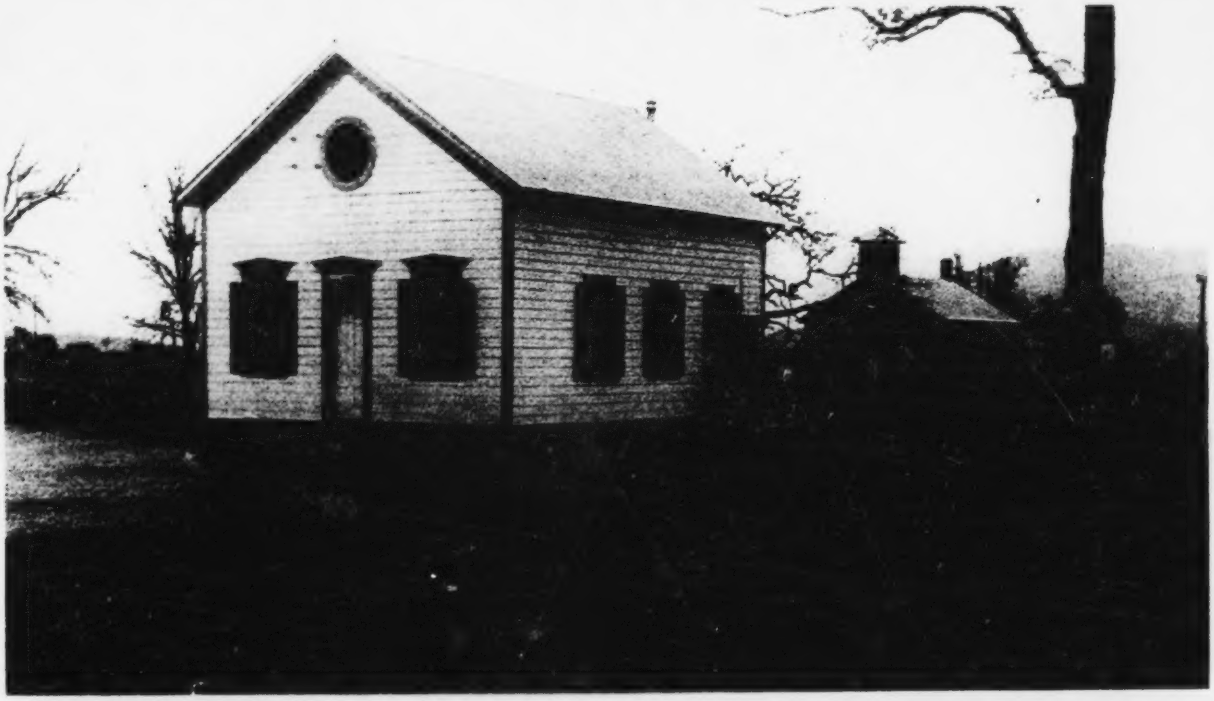
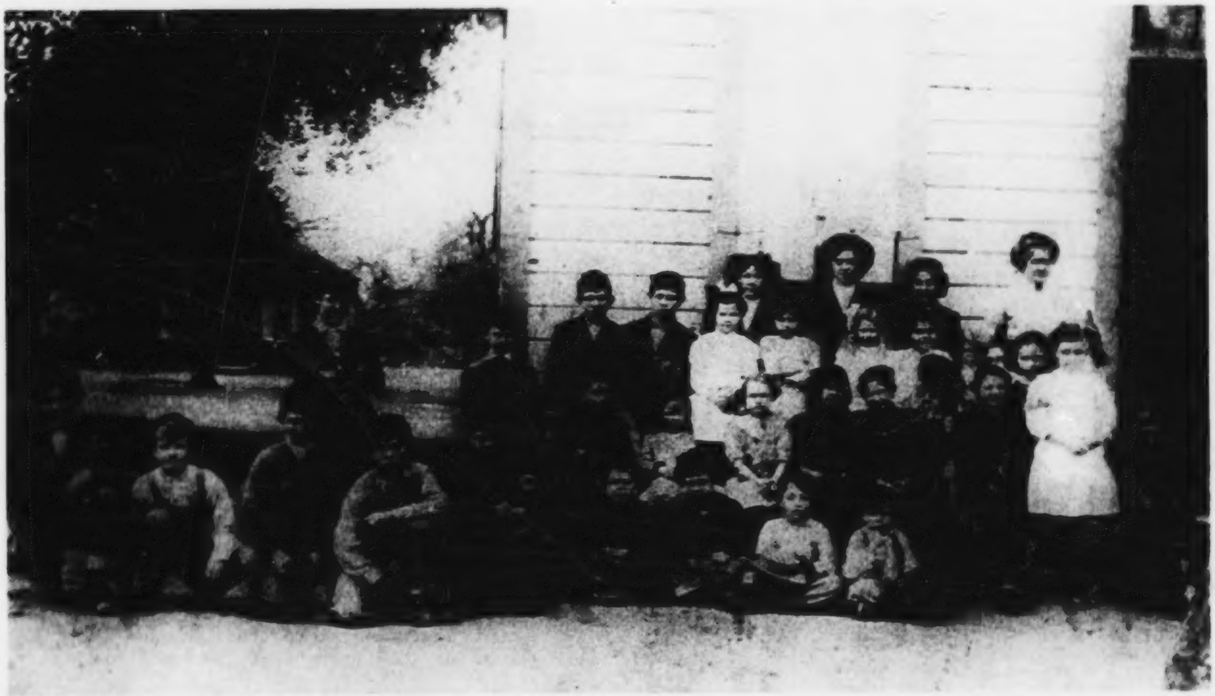


Figure 8: The two Altaville school houses prior to 1950. The brick schoolhouse is visible in the background. Photograph from Charles Schwoerer Family.

Figure 9: Altaville School teacher Mayme Duffy's pupils pose in front of the frame Altaville School in 1911. The brick school is visible in the background, left.



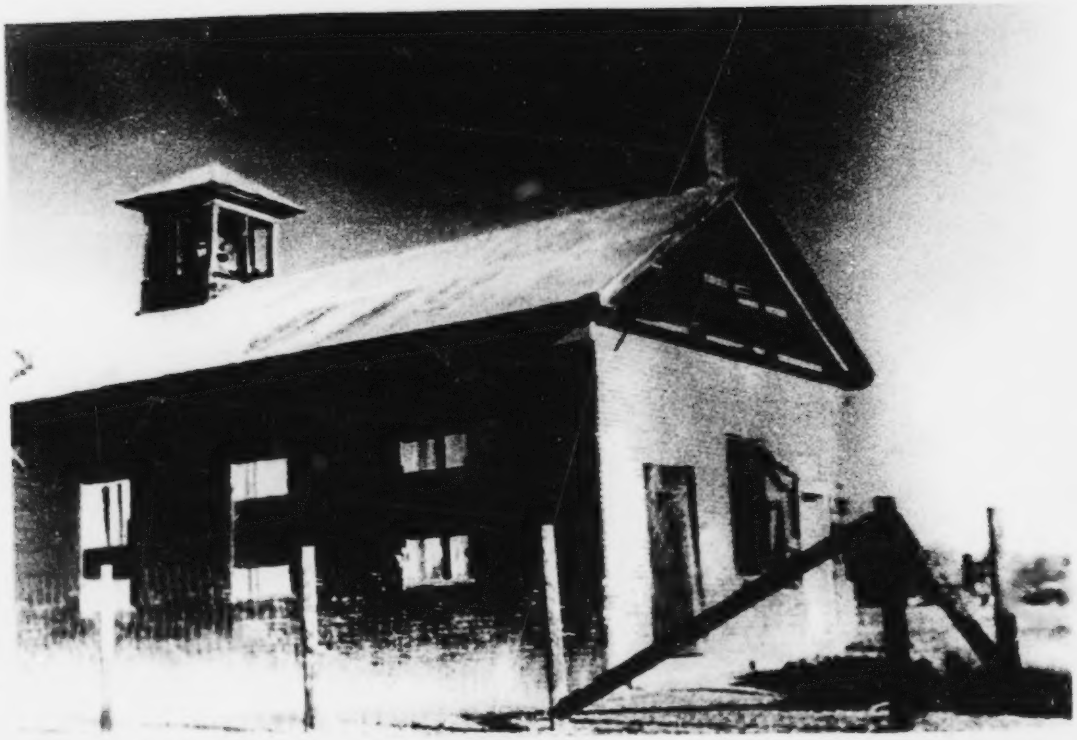


Figure 10: The Altaville School on the CDF grounds ca. 1981.

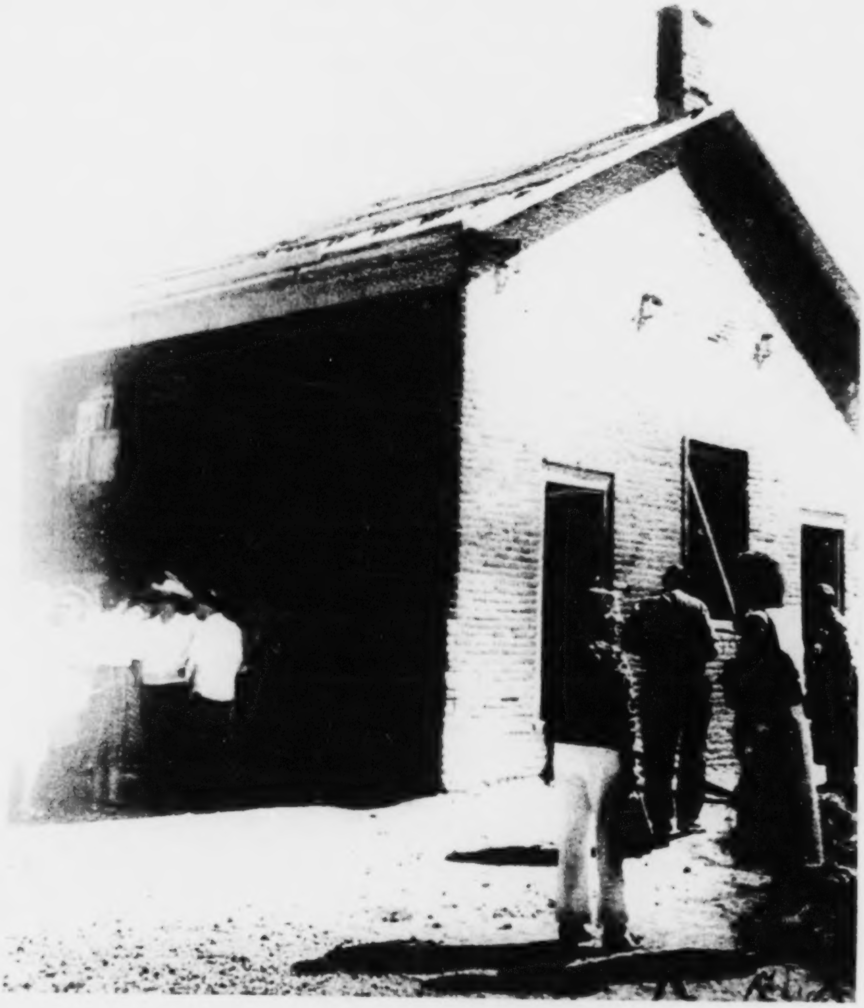


Figure 11: Altaville School in original location being inspected by members of the Calaveras County Historical Society and CDF personnel.

Figure 12: Altaville School in original location on CDF grounds, showing installation of steel beams prior to moving the structure (*Calaveras Enterprise*).

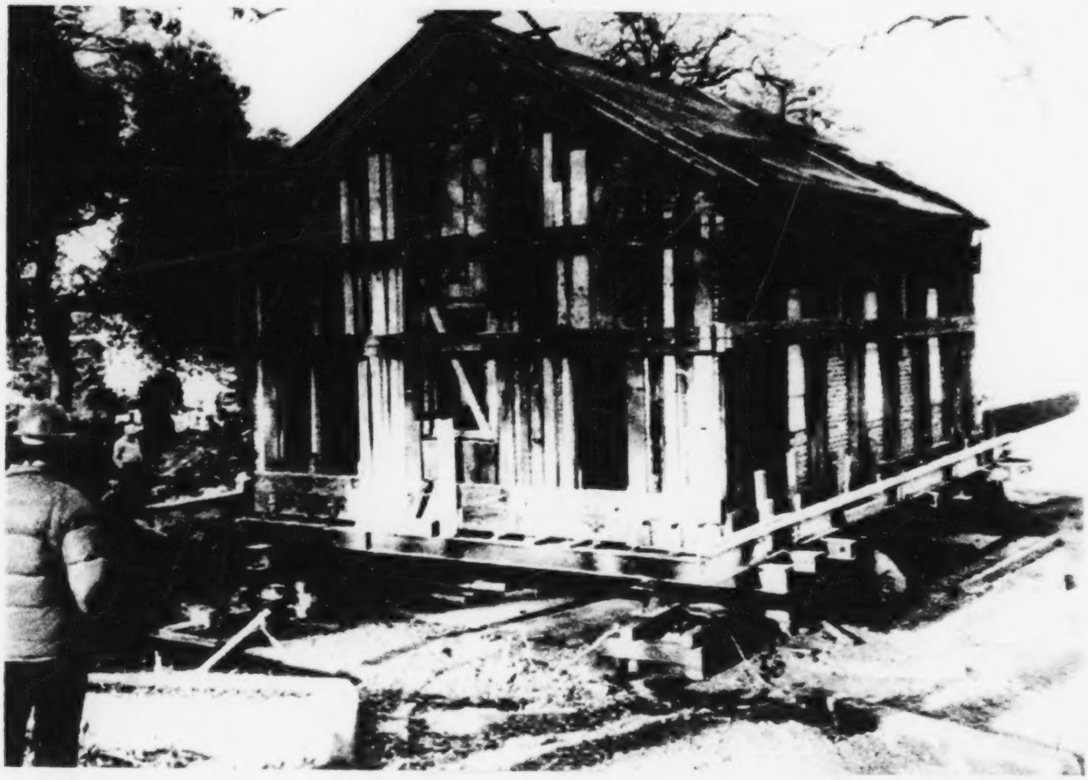


Figure 13: Altaville School in the process of being moved in 1983; CDF personnel observe the moving (left).

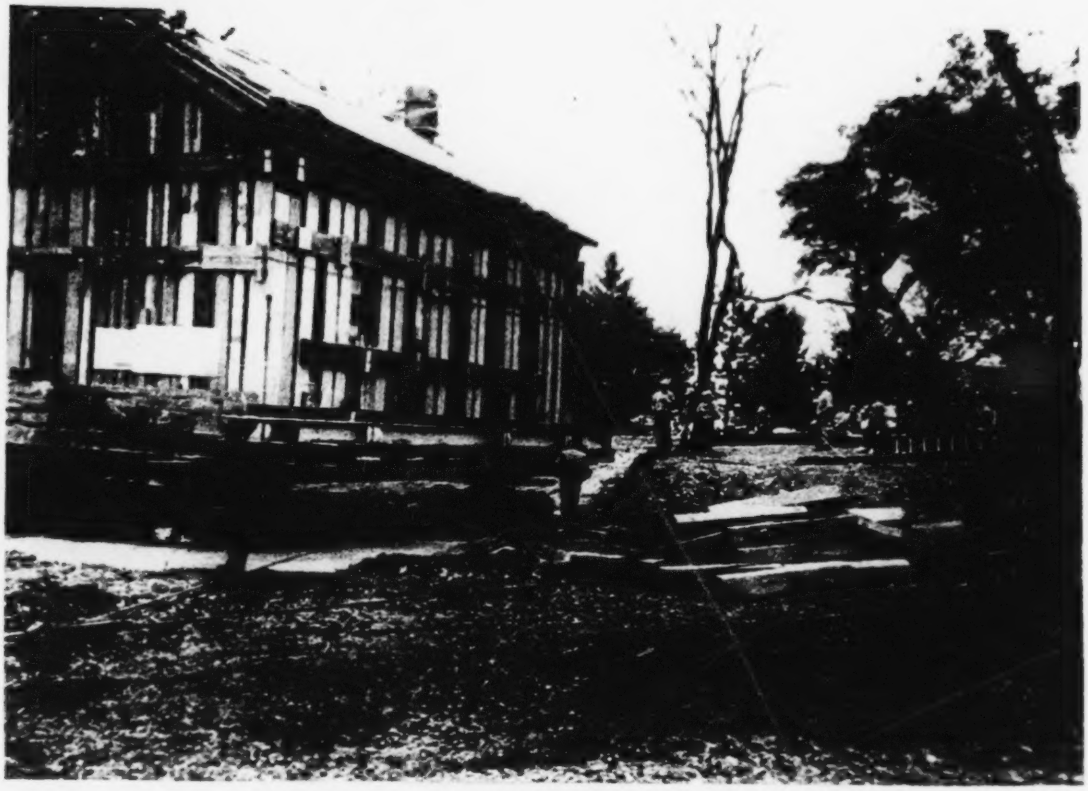


Figure 14: Altaville School in the process of being moved, nearing its final position, 1983.

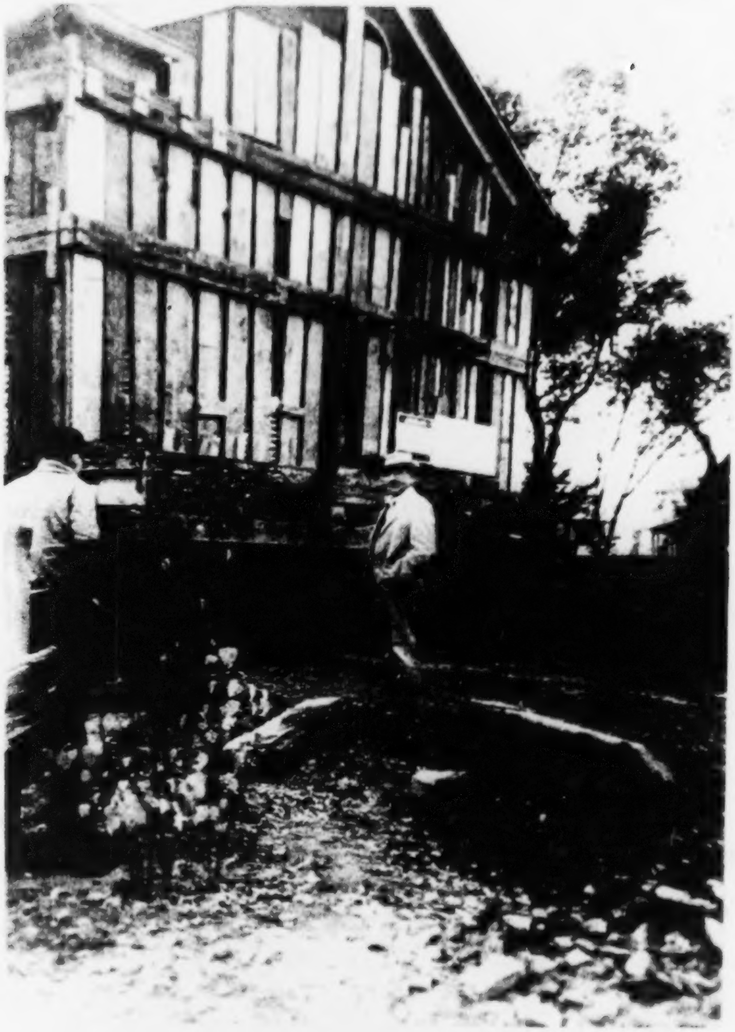


Figure 15: Altaville School being moved to its present position, observed by Eldred Lane, Calaveras County Historical Society.

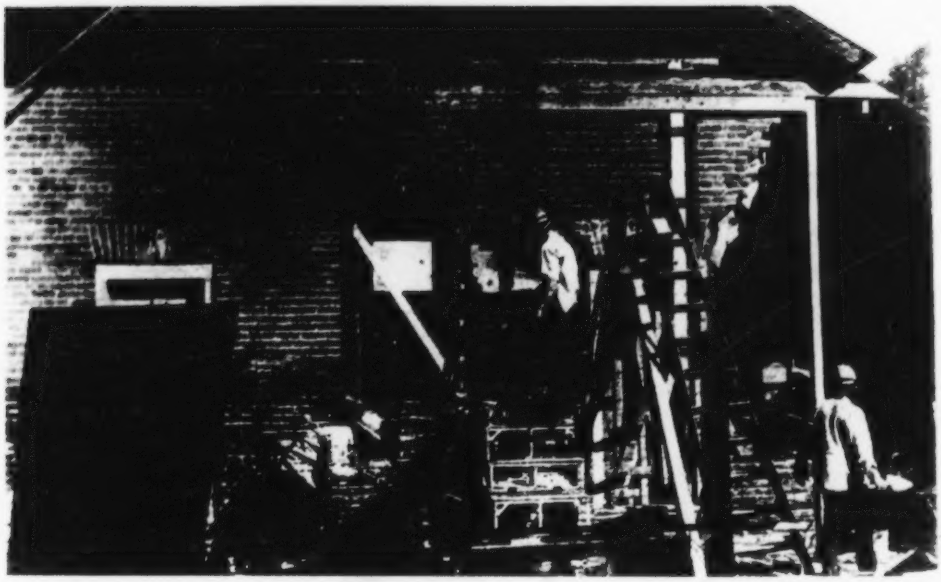


Figure 16: Baseline Crew 4, directed by CDF Fire Crew Supervisor Alan Stovall, undertake restoration of the Altaville School, 1983 (*CDF Communique*).

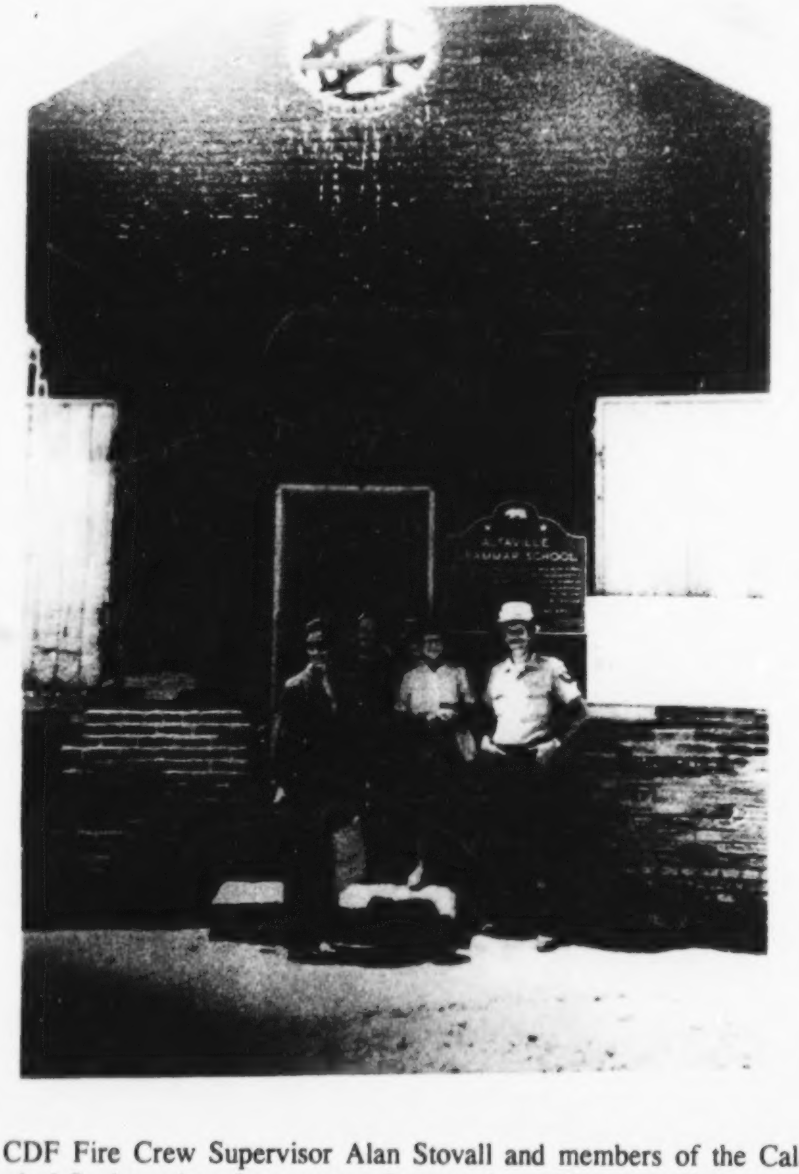


Figure 17: CDF Fire Crew Supervisor Alan Stovall and members of the Calaveras County Historical Society view the process of restoration of the Altaville School.

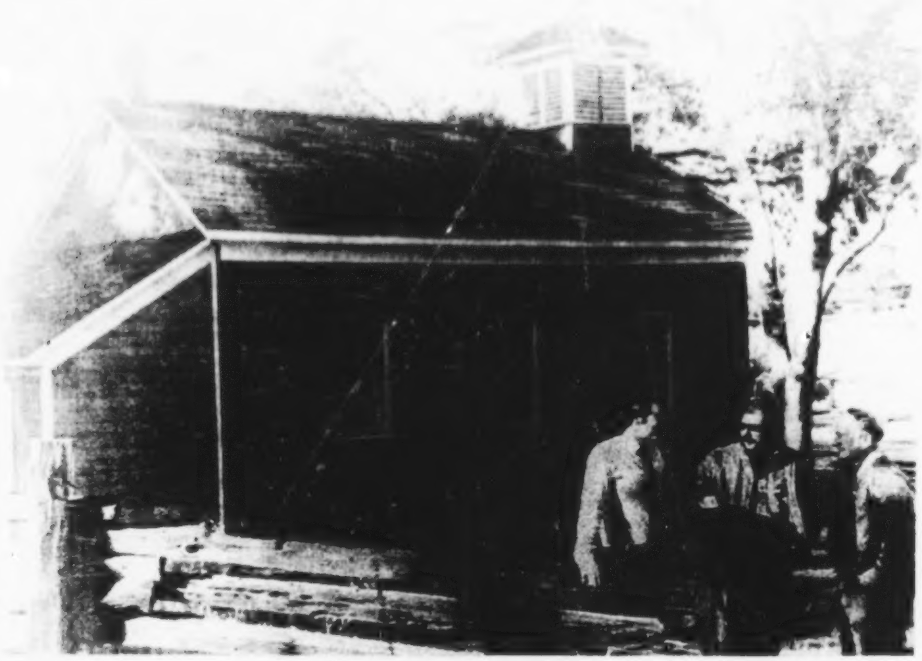


Figure 18: Restoration of the historic Altaville School in progress; from left, architect Dave Hitchcock, Roger Pitto, Sierra Engineering, and Calaveras County Historical Society Vice-President, Don Cuneo.

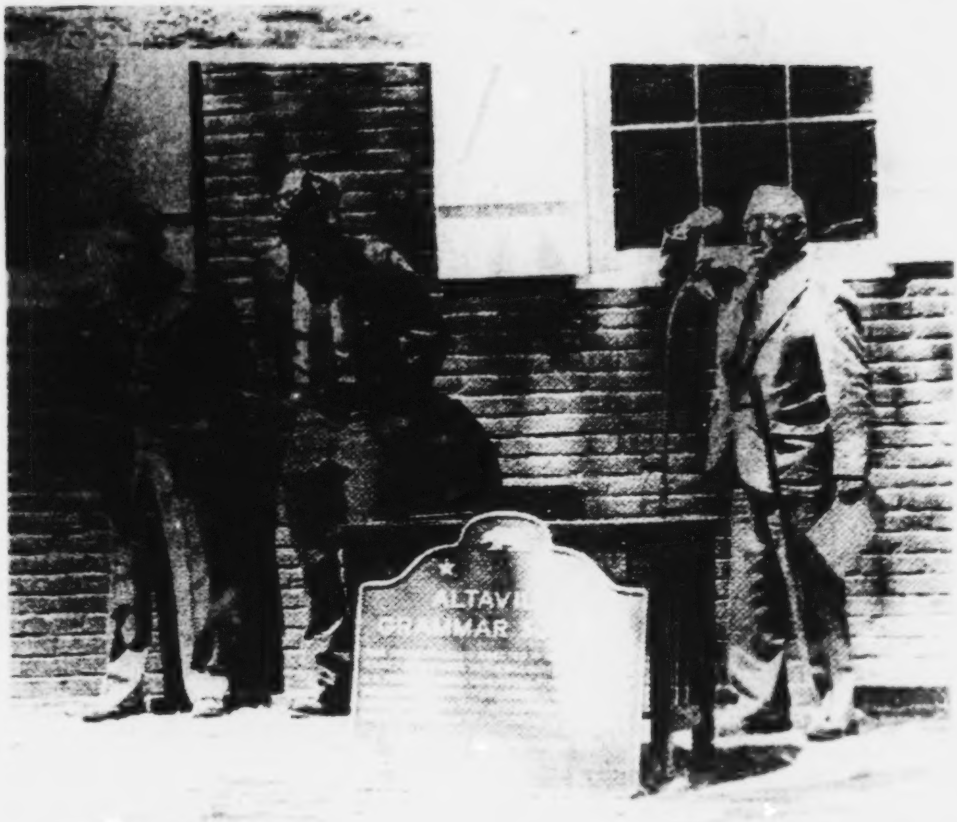


Figure 19: Formal dedication of the Altaville School in its new location, Saturday, April 21, 1984. Shown from left to right, Jack Kennedy, President, Calaveras County Historical Society, Alan Stovall, CDF Baseline Conservation Camp, and Eldred Lane, Calaveras County Historical Society.

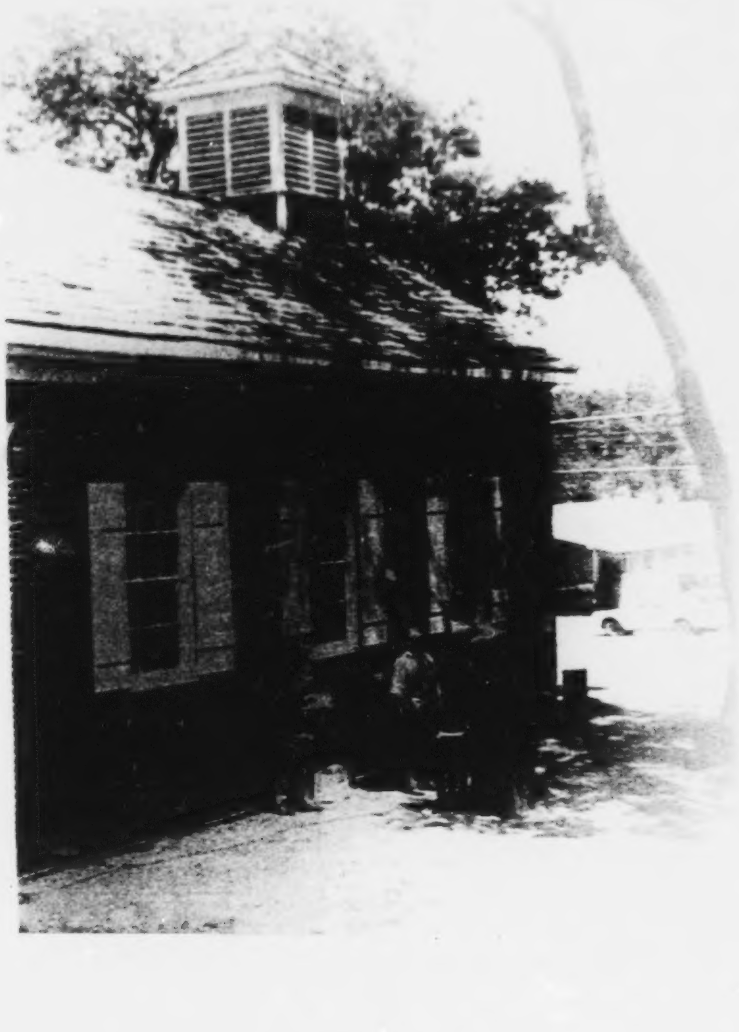
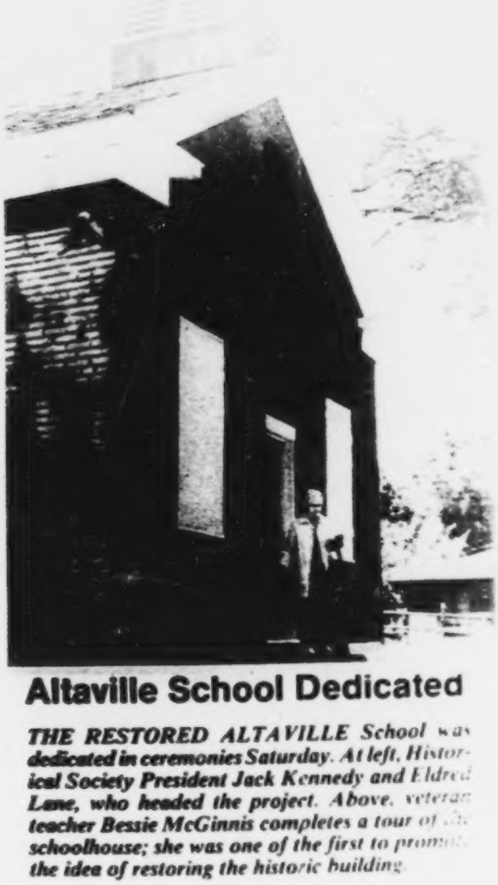


Figure 20: Formal dedication of the Altaville School in its new location, Saturday, April 21, 1984. Shown from left to right, Jack Kennedy, President, Calaveras County Historical Society, and Eldred Lane, Calaveras County Historical Society.



Altaville School Dedicated

THE RESTORED ALTAVILLE School was dedicated in ceremonies Saturday. At left, Historical Society President Jack Kennedy and Eldred Lane, who headed the project. Above, veteran teacher Bessie McGinnis completes a tour of the schoolhouse; she was one of the first to promote the idea of restoring the historic building.

Figure 21: Altaville School dedicated in formal ceremony held Saturday, April 21, 1984. Veteran teacher Bessie McGinnis shown in front of the schoolhouse in its new location. *-Calaveras Enterprise*

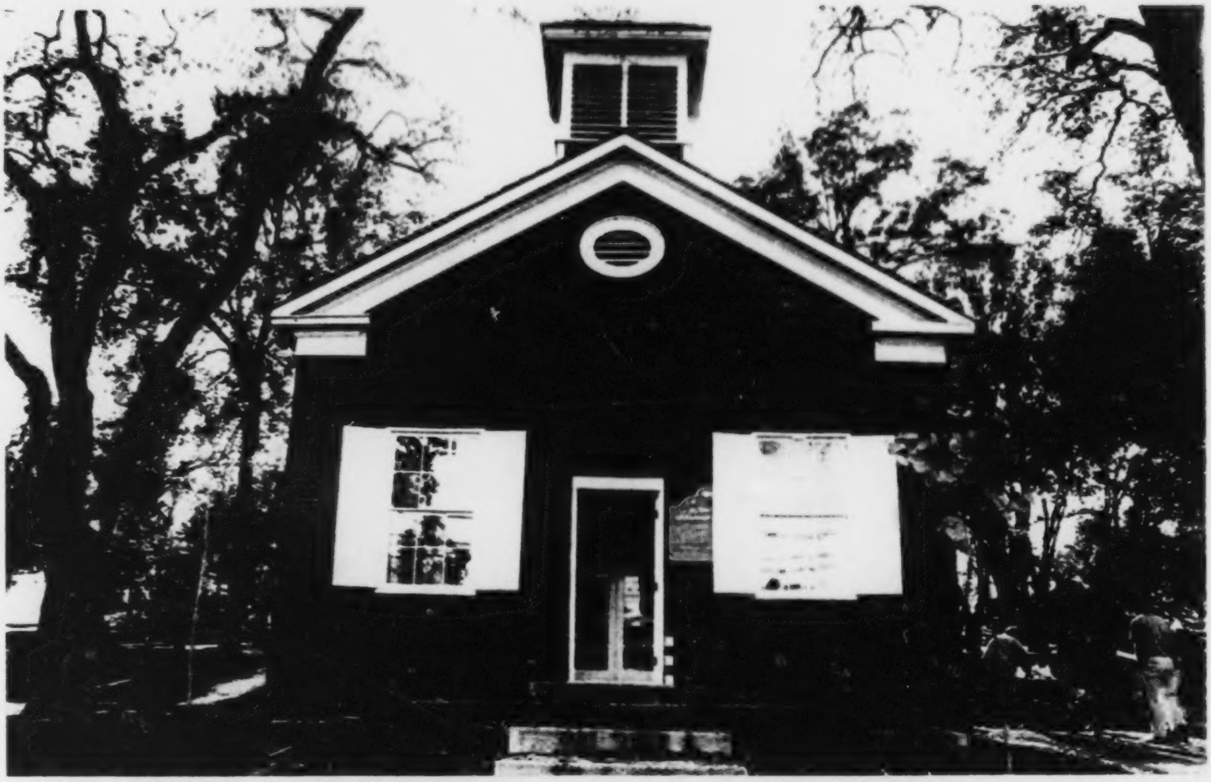
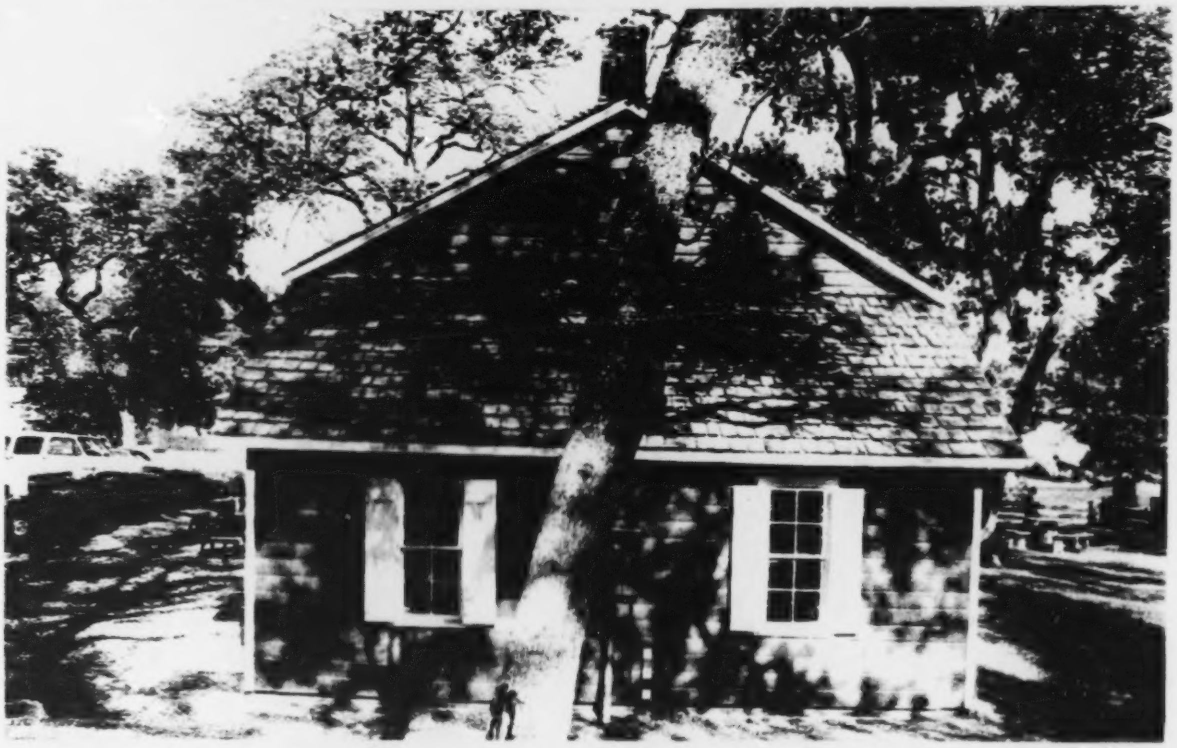


Figure 22: The Altaville School (north elevation) in its present-day renovated condition, serves as a memorial and museum, November 1996. -CSUS/IAR Photo

Figure 23: The Altaville School (south elevation) in its present-day renovated condition, serves as a memorial and museum, November 1996. -CSUS/IAR Photo



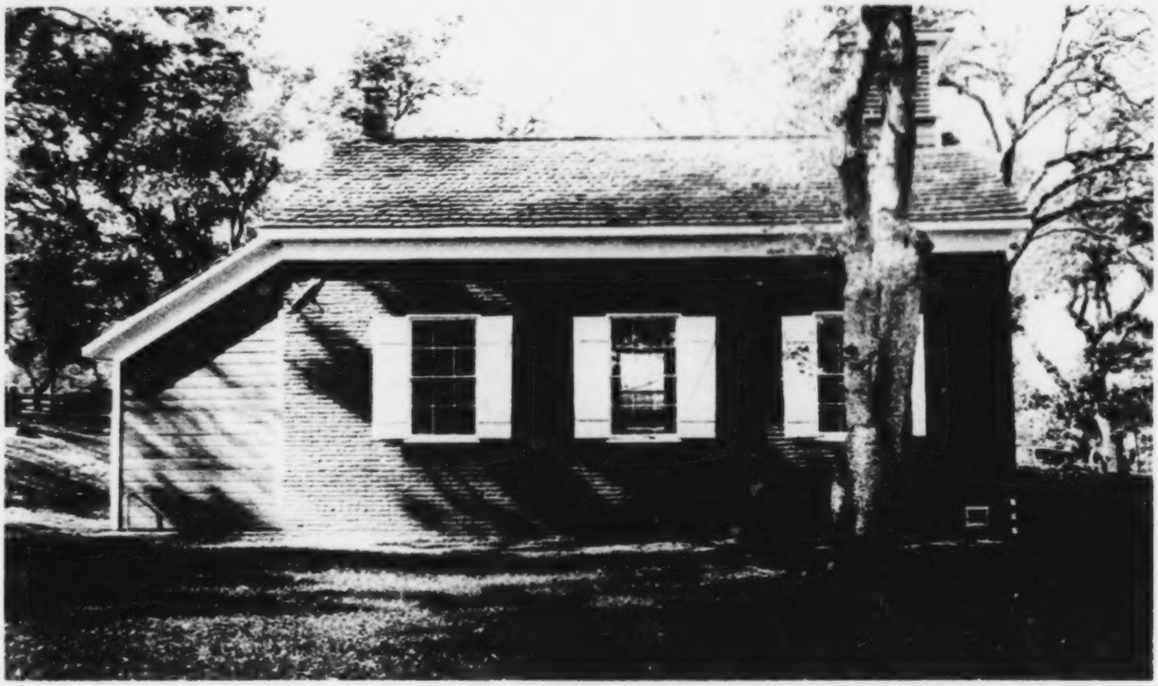
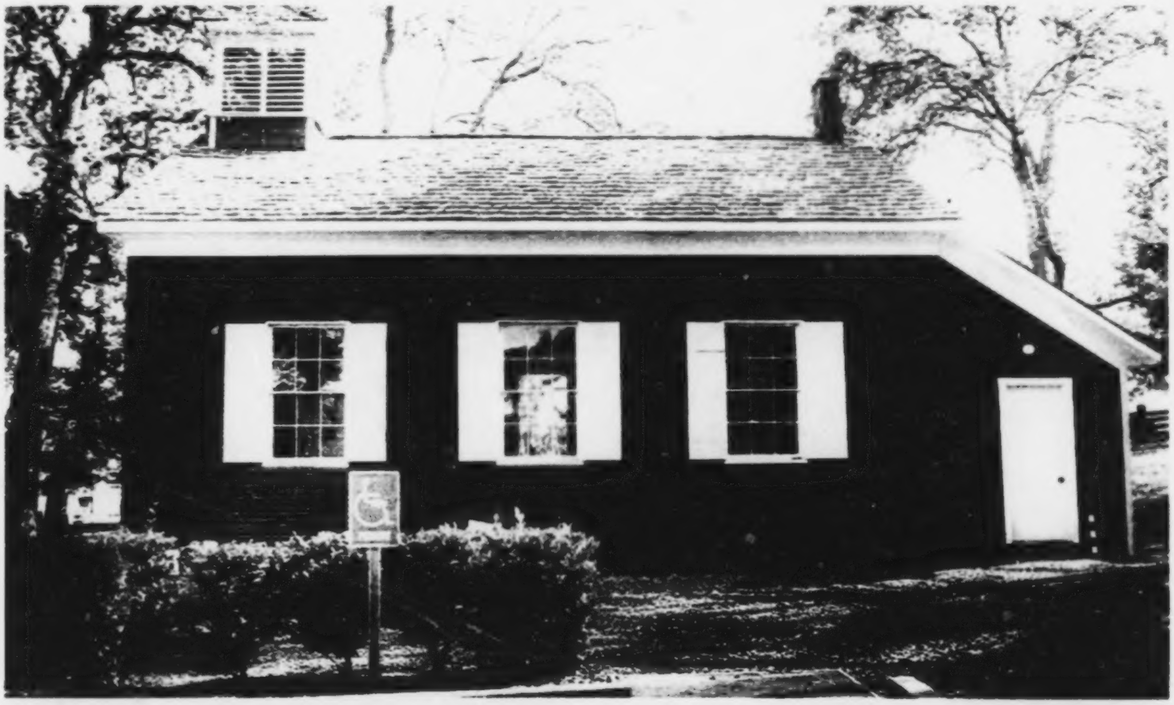


Figure 24: The Altaville School (east elevation) in its present-day renovated condition, serves as a memorial and museum, November 1996. -CSUS/IAR Photo

Figure 25: The Altaville School (west elevation) in its present-day renovated condition, serves as a memorial and museum, November 1996. -CSUS/IAR Photo



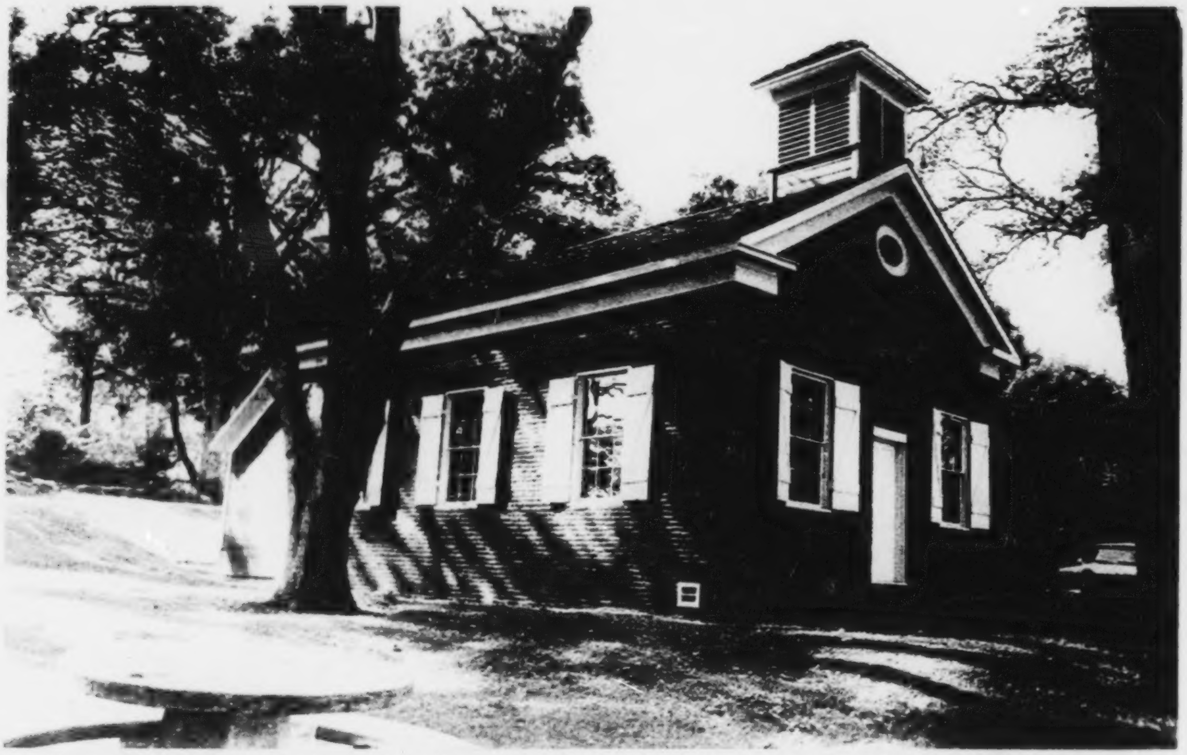
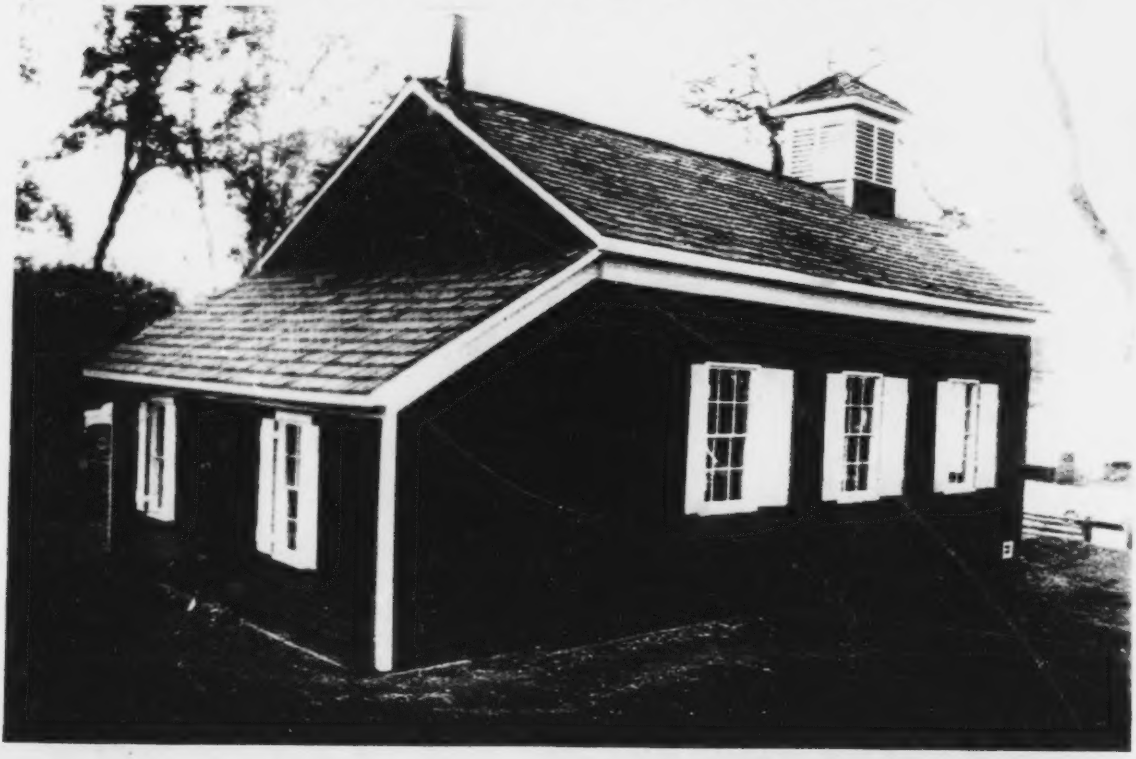


Figure 26: Altaville School, showing the north and east elevations, and landscaping, including picnic table. -CSUS/IAR Photo

Figure 27: Altaville School, southeast elevation, showing storage room which has been added to the back of the restored brick building. -CSUS/IAR Photo



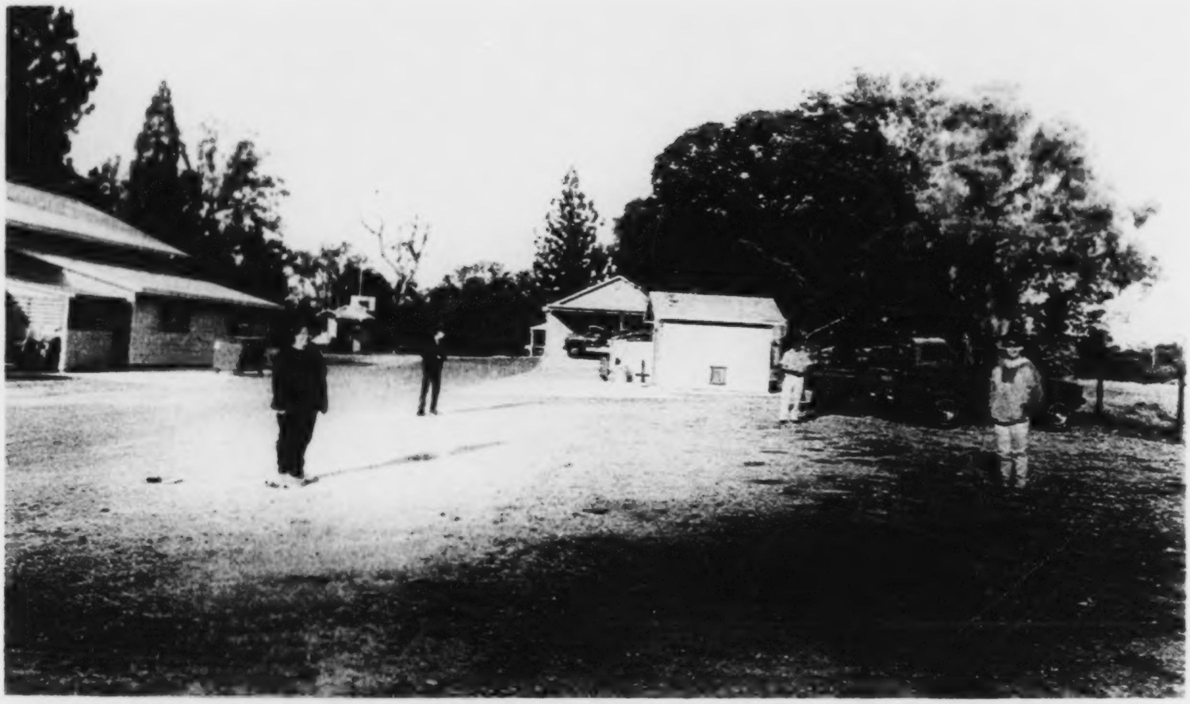
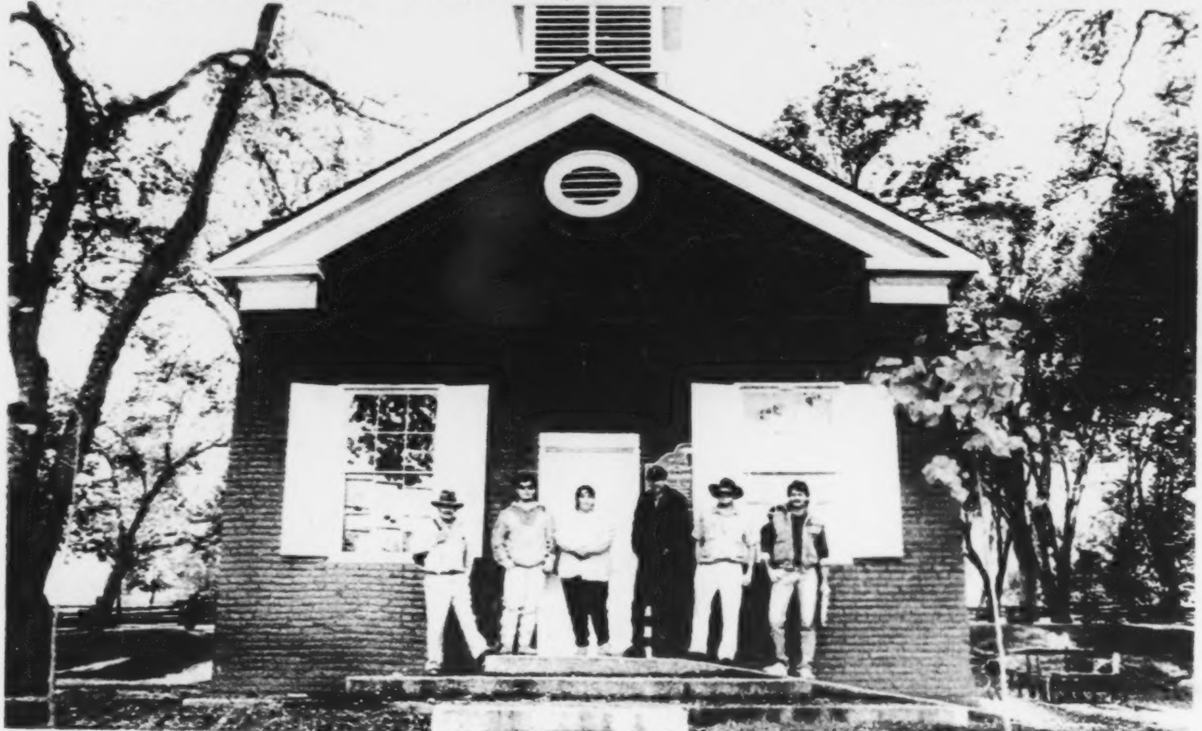


Figure 28: Members of California State University, Stanislaus, ANTH 4605 Archaeological Field Methods, positioned at the approximate corners of the former location of the Altaville School on the CDF grounds, November 1996. -CSUS/IAR Photo

Figure 29: Members of California State University, Stanislaus, ANTH 4605 Archaeological Field Methods, at the Altaville School, November, 1996. -CSUS/IAR Photo



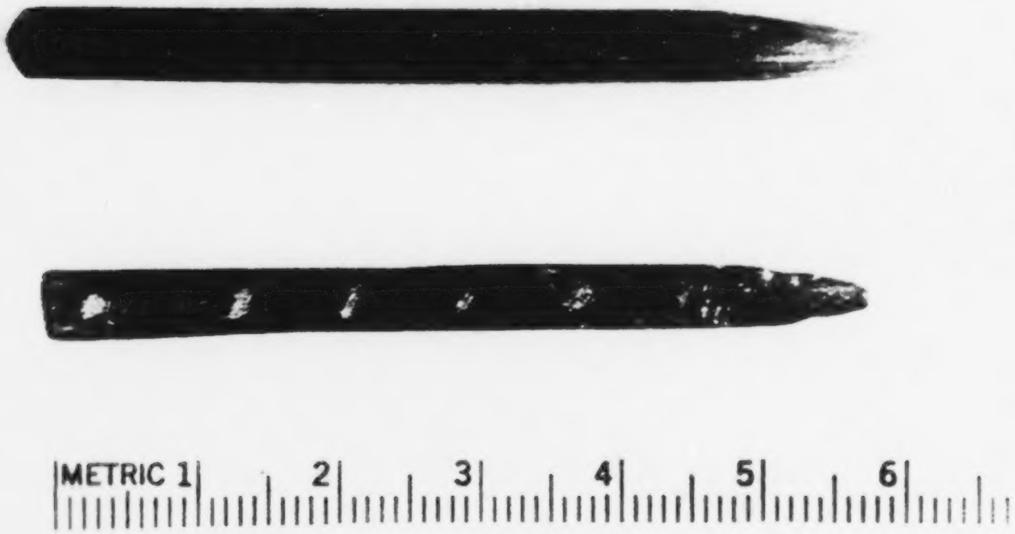
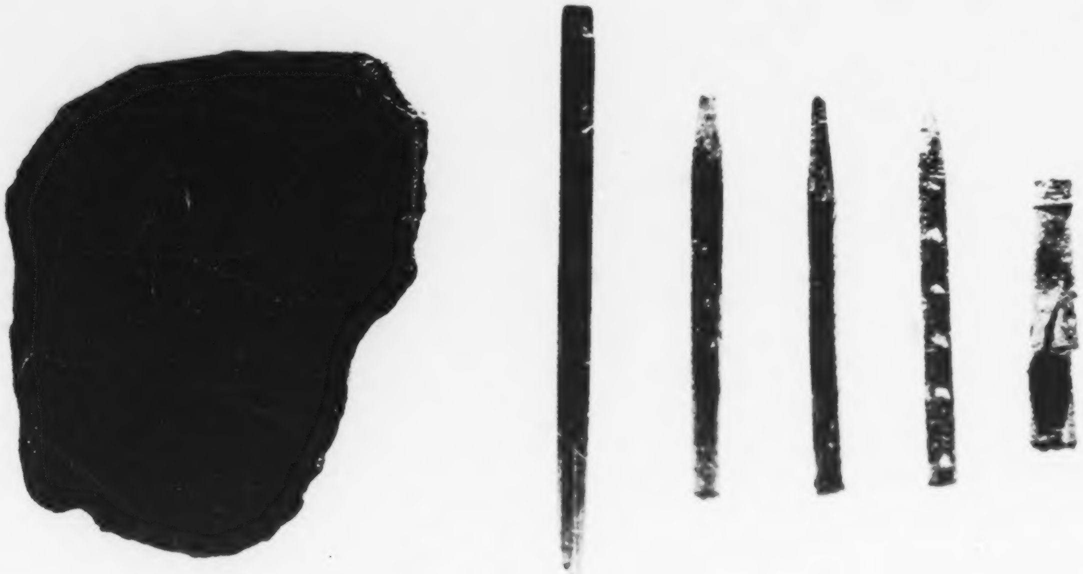


Figure 30: Altaville School Artifacts: Upper, Artifact #107, slate pencil, complete; Lower, #108, slate pencil, complete, note parallel scars.

Figure 31: Altaville School Artifacts (actual size): left to right: #100, slate fragment; #105-#108, slate pencils; #320, ferrule of small brush.



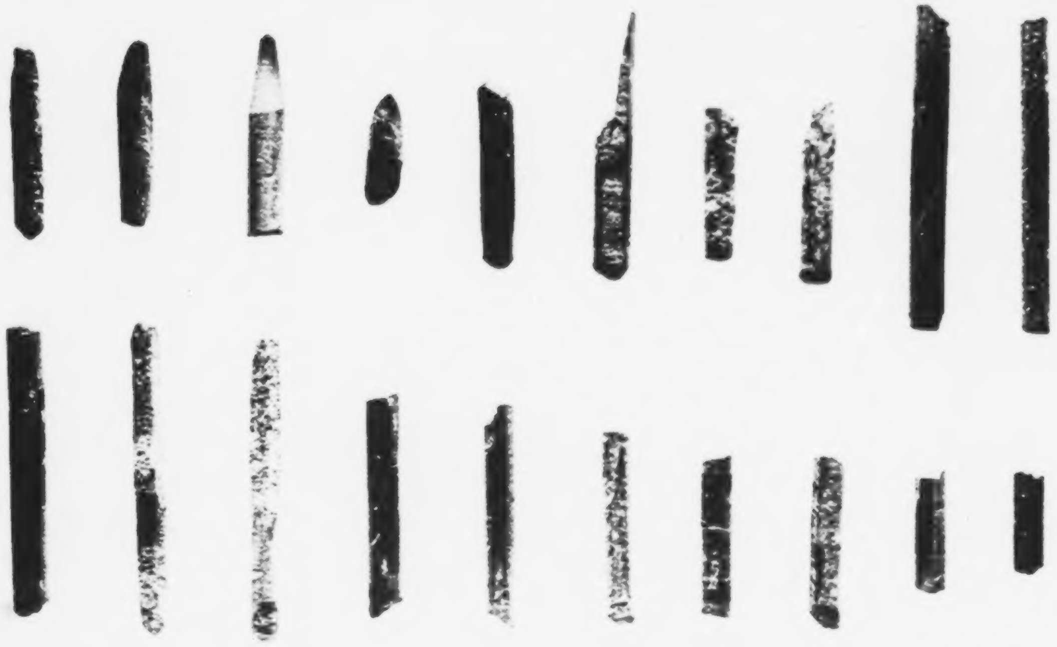
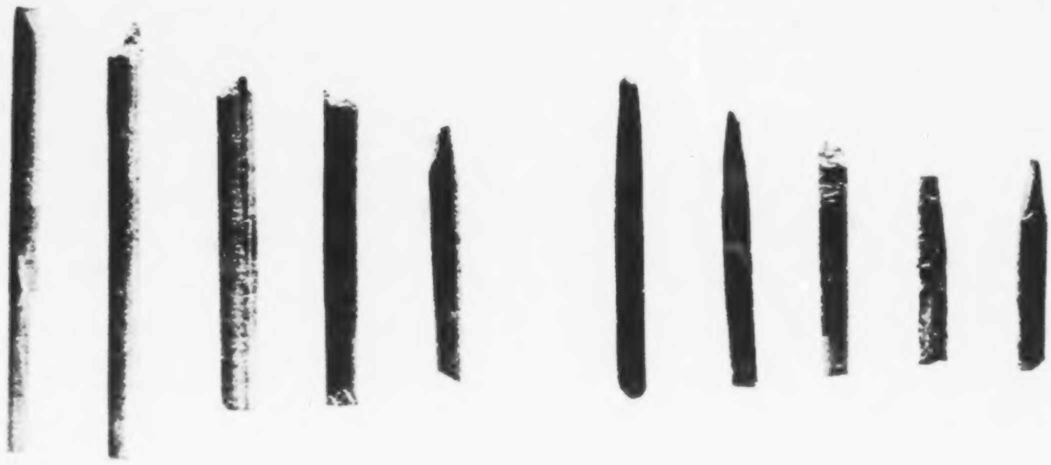


Figure 32: Altaville School Artifacts (actual size): Upper, Artifacts #200-209, slate pencils; Lower, #210-219, slate pencils.

Figure 33: Altaville School Artifacts (actual size): left to right, Slate pencils, #21-25, proximal ends; #30-34, distal ends.



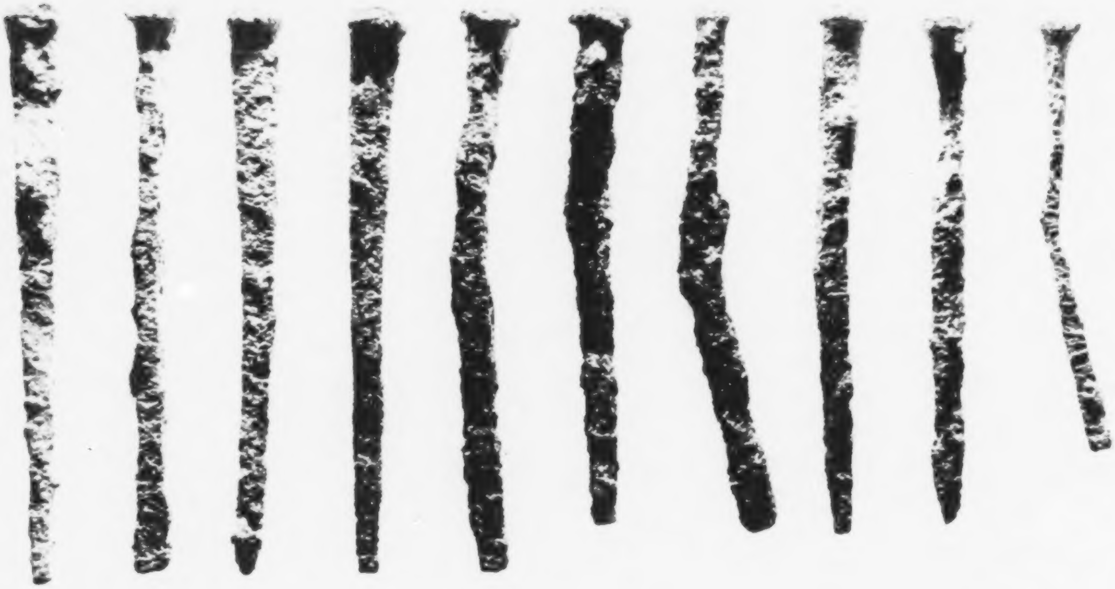


Figure 34: Altaville School Artifacts (actual size): Cut nails, 12D-8D, left to right, Artifacts #230-#239.

Figure 35: Altaville School Artifacts (actual size): Cut nails, 8D-4D, left to right, Artifacts #240-247.

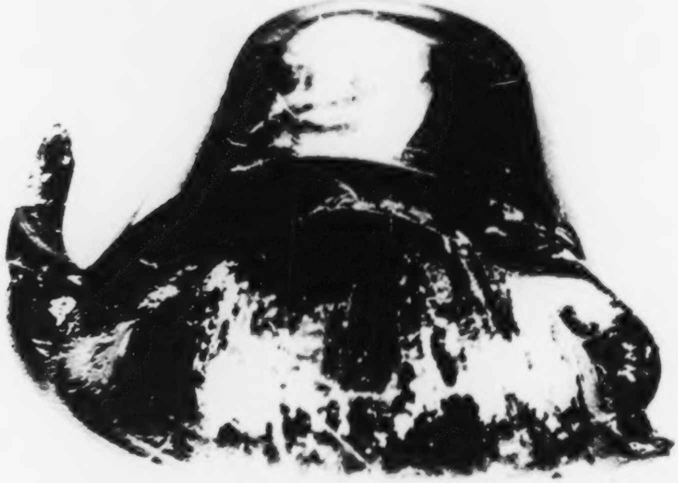
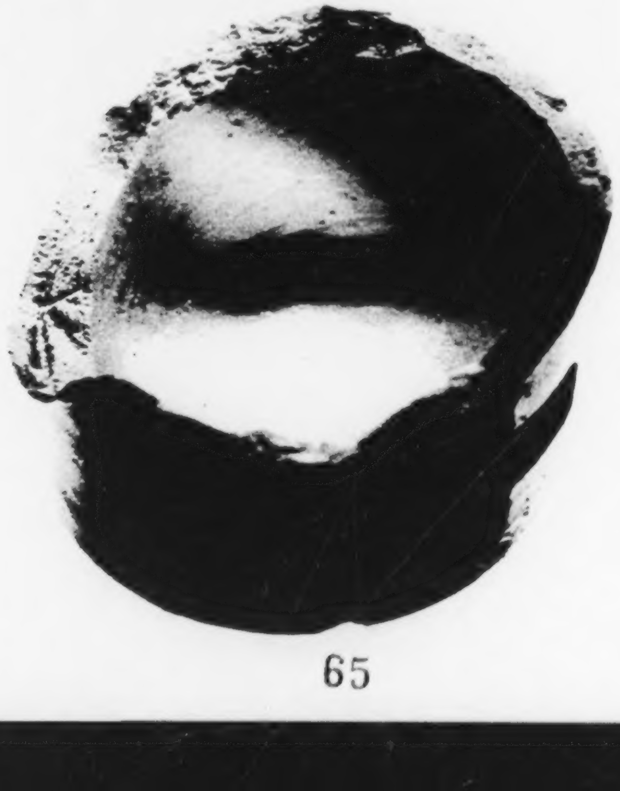


Figure 36: Altaville School Artifacts (actual size): Artifact #110, basal fragment of champagne or wine bottle (note "kick-up").

Figure 37: Altaville School Artifacts (actual size): Artifact #87, basal fragment of ceramic bottle.



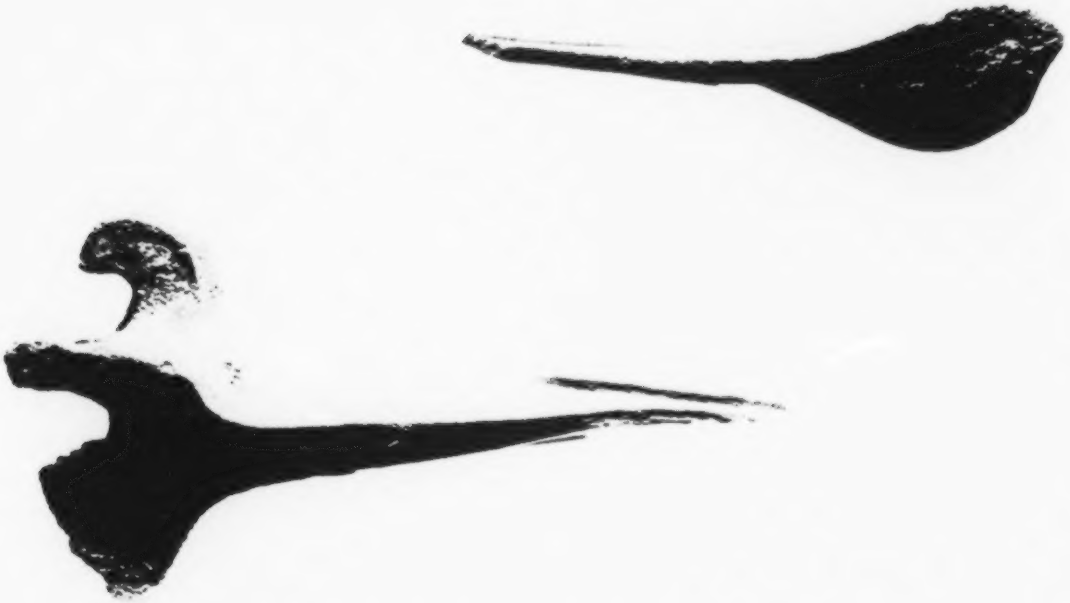
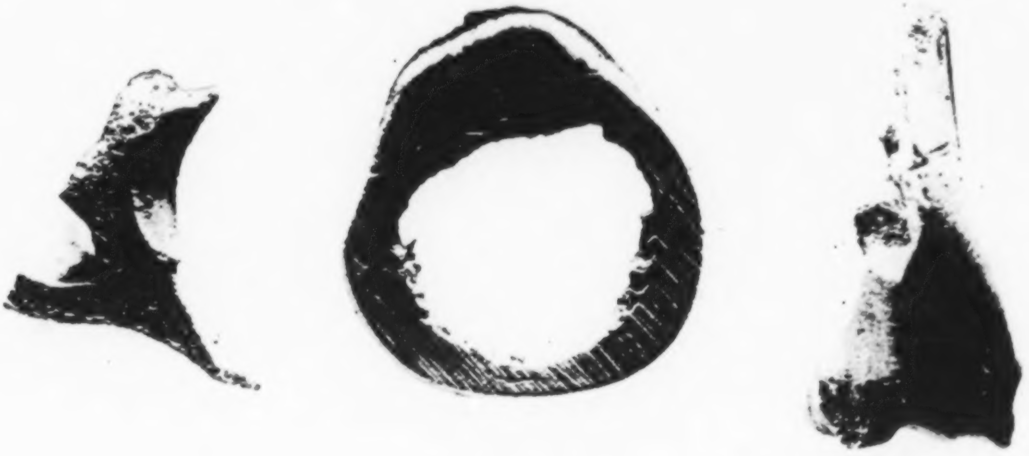


Figure 38: Altaville School Artifacts (actual size): Upper right, Artifact #51, lower left, #50, fragments of bone cut with meat saw.

Figure 39: Altaville School Artifacts (actual size): Left to right, Artifacts #202, #221, and #231, fragments of bone cut with meat saw.



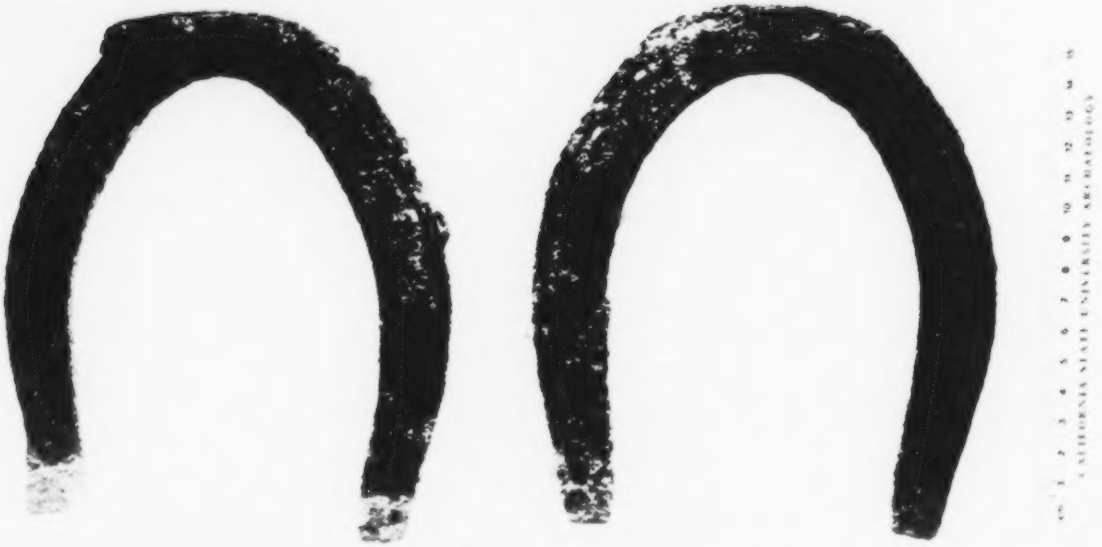
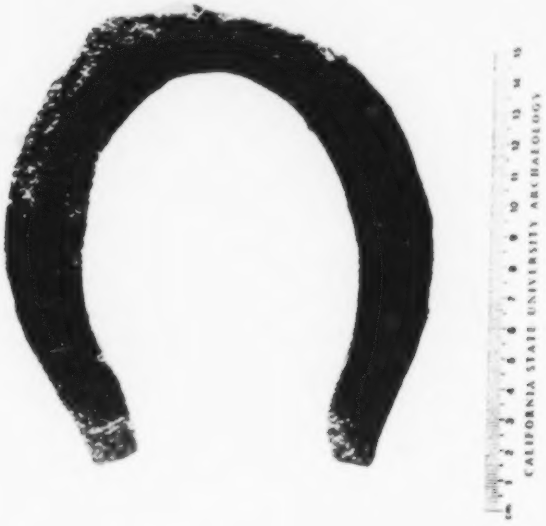


Figure 40: Altaville School Artifacts: left, Artifact #97, horseshoe; right, Artifact #98, horseshoe.

Figure 41: Altaville School Artifacts: Artifact #326, horseshoe.



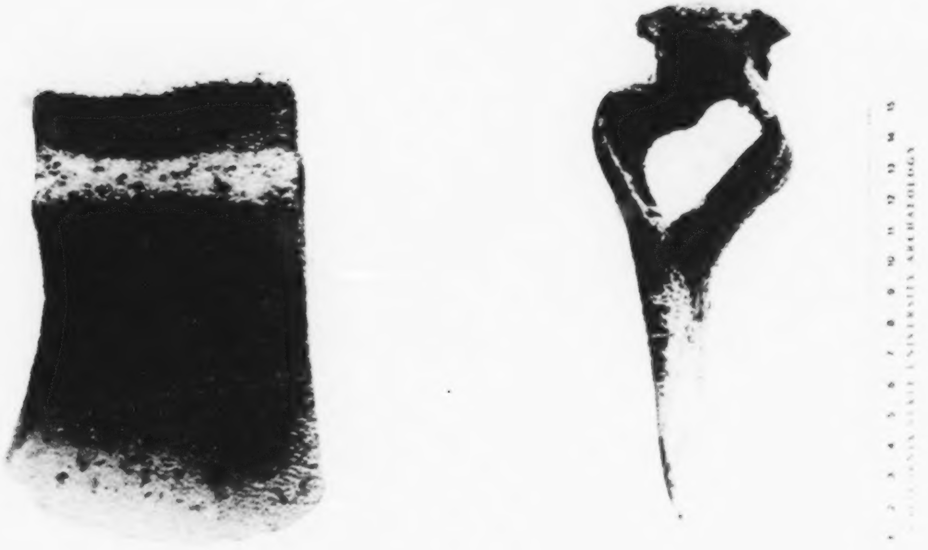
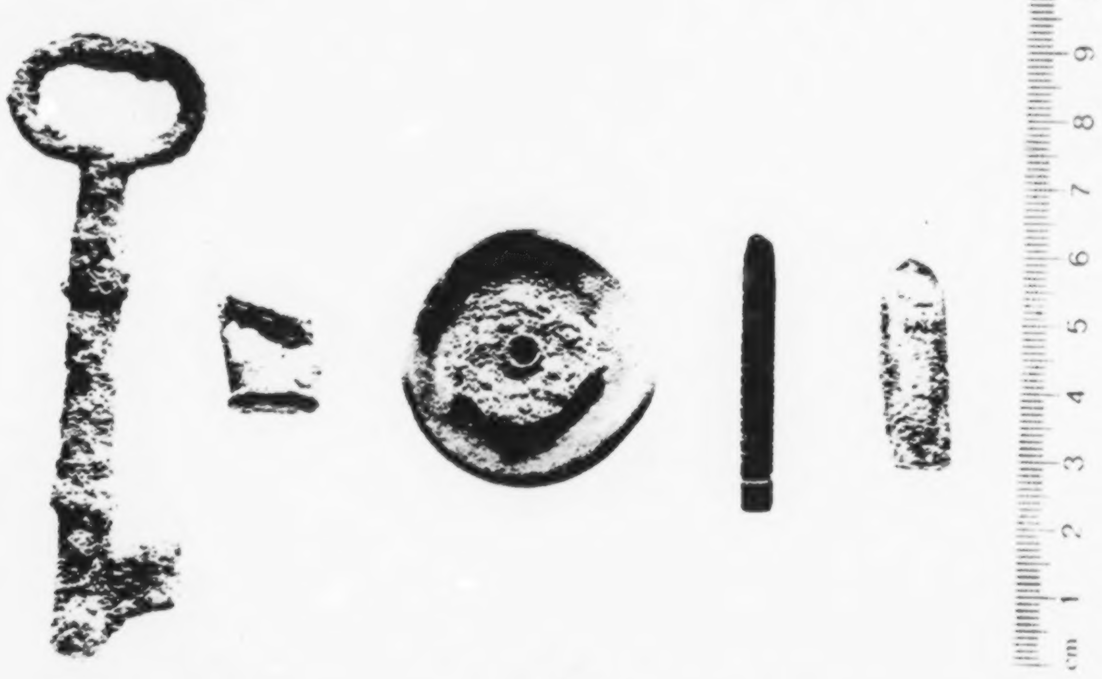


Figure 42: Altaville School, Artifacts: Artifact #327, hand-forged single bit axe head; left, face; right, haft.

Figure 43: Altaville School Artifacts, left to right: #164, Skeleton key; #194, .38 caliber cartridge; #103, eraser wheel; #191, slate pencil; #102, nubbin of chalk.



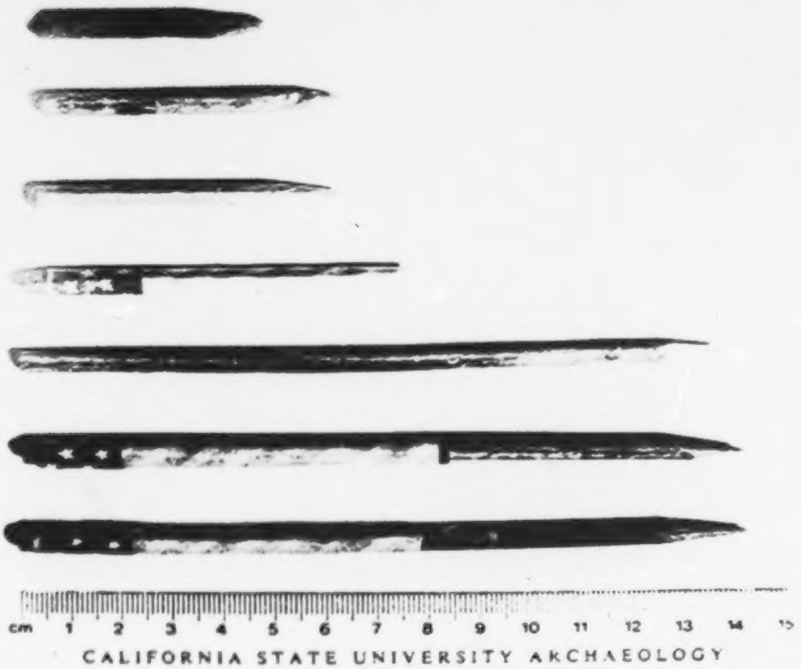
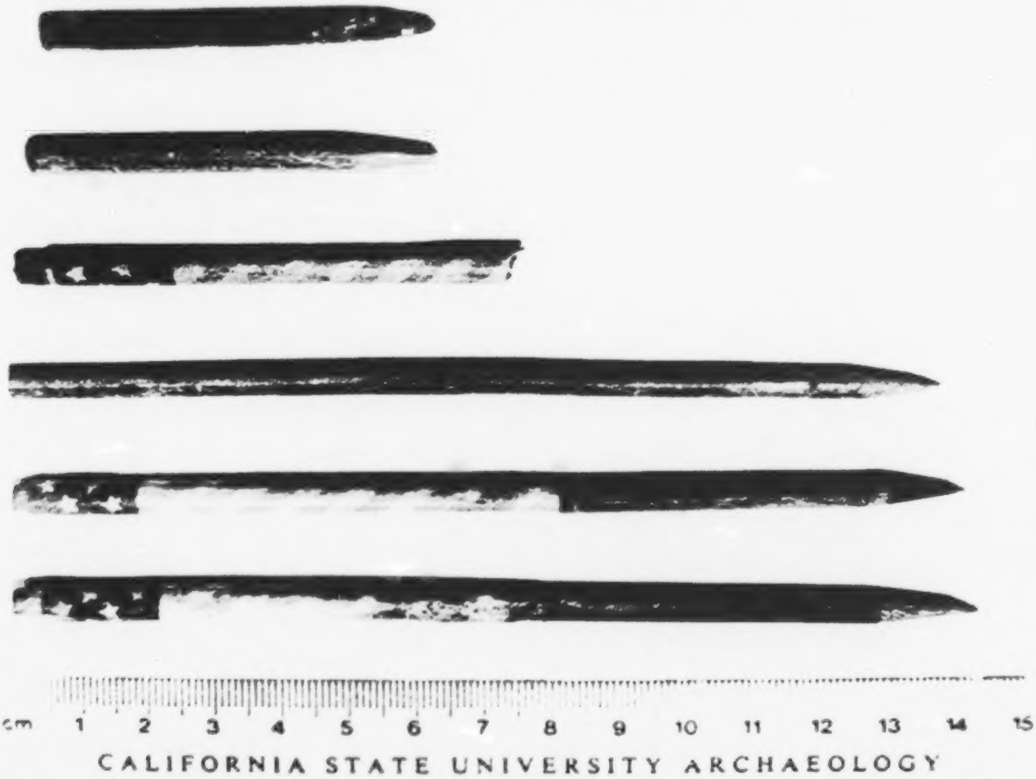

cm 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGY

Figure 44: Comparison of slate pencils from the Altaville School (upper three specimens) and from the Columbia State Historic Park (lower four).

Figure 45: Closeup of slate pencils from the Altaville School (upper two specimens) Columbia State Historic Park Museum (lower four specimens).


cm 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGY

Appendix A:

Artifact Catalog

ALTAVILLE SCHOOL CATALOG (FOSTER 1982 EXCAVATION)

NO.		ARTIFACT TYPE	MATERIAL TYPE	LENGTH (cm)	WIDTH (cm)	THICKNESS (cm)	WEIGHT (gm)	REMARKS (Condition)
1	L-1	Milled lumber	Wood	5.00	4.00	1.00	3.20	Decayed
2	L-1	Crockery (glazed)	Ceramic	1.50	1.00	0.50	0.80	Fragment; flower design
3	L-1	Jar fragment	White translu-scent glass	0.65	0.60	0.40	0.70	Rim fragment
4	L-1	Wire nail	Metal	8.50	0.40	0.40	9.40	Wire nail 12D
5	L-2	Wire nail	Metal	4.50	0.30	0.30	1.90	Finishing nail; 5D
6	L-2	Lumber	Wood	9.00	2.50	2.00	4.50	Fragment
7	L-3	Strapping	Metal	17.00	3.50	0.50	18.80	Folded in five pieces

L-1 = Level 1, 0-10 cm

L-2 = Level 2, 10-20 cm

L-3 = Level 3, 20-30 cm

ALTAVILLE SCHOOL CATALOG (CDF SCREENING)

NO.	ARTIFACT TYPE	MATERIAL TYPE	LENGTH (cm)	WIDTH (cm)	THICKNESS (cm)	WEIGHT (gm)	REMARKS (Condition)
8	Cut nail 16d	Metal	9.30	0.70	0.50	13.40	Complete
9	Cut nail 12d	Metal	8.50	0.70	0.40	9.00	Complete
10	Cut nail	Metal	3.20	0.70	0.50	6.40	Fragment
11	Cut nail 10d	Metal	7.70	0.40	0.40	6.00	Complete
12	Cut nail 10d	Metal	7.50	0.60	0.40	8.20	Complete
13	Cut nail 10d	Metal	7.50	0.60	0.40	8.20	Complete
14	Cut nail 10d	Metal	7.50	0.60	0.40	6.90	Complete
15	Ferrule	Metal	2.30	0.40	0.40	0.60	Complete
16	Wire nail	Metal	9.00	0.40	0.40	9.00	16D
17	Wire nail	Metal	7.50	0.70	0.70	7.70	10D
18	Wire nail	Metal	7.50	0.30	0.30	4.20	10D
19	Wire nail	Metal	6.50	0.40	0.40	5.20	8D
20	Wire nail	Metal	4.00	0.30	0.30	2.00	Frag.
21	Pencil	Slate	6.60	0.40	0.40	3.60	Blunt end
22	Pencil	Slate	6.60	0.50	0.50	3.90	Blunt end
23	Pencil	Slate	5.00	0.50	0.50	3.50	Blunt end
24	Pencil	Slate	4.70	0.50	0.50	2.70	Blunt end
25	Pencil	Slate	3.70	0.50	0.50	1.60	Fragment
26	Pencil	Slate	3.70	0.50	0.50	1.70	Milled end
27	Pencil	Slate	2.40	0.40	0.40	0.90	Fragment
28	Pencil	Slate	2.50	0.30	0.30	0.80	Milled end
29	Pencil	Slate	2.00	0.50	0.50	1.10	Blunt end
30	Pencil	Slate	4.70	0.50	0.50	1.80	Sharpened
31	Pencil	Slate	4.10	0.40	0.40	1.50	Sharpened
32	Pencil	Slate	3.70	0.50	0.50	2.00	Blunt
33	Pencil	Slate	3.00	0.50	0.50	1.10	Blunt
34	Pencil	Slate	3.20	0.50	0.30	0.70	Sharpened
35	Wood screw	Metal	3.70	0.40	0.40	3.00	Flat head
36	Comb	Plastic?	8.00	1.40	0.30	5.50	Fragment
37	Unknown	Bone	9.00	1.40	1.00	3.70	Long bone
38	Aves sp.	Bone	7.50	1.50	0.20	0.90	Sternum
39	Aves sp.	Bone	7.50	1.70	0.60	2.80	Femur
40	Aves sp.	Bone	6.00	0.70	0.60	2.40	Shaft frag.
41	Aves sp.	Bone	7.00	1.00	0.70	3.00	Shaft frag.
42	Window	Glass	10.50	3.60	0.20	16.70	Fragment
43	Window	Glass	5.50	5.50	0.20	7.60	Fragment
44	Window	Glass	4.70	3.20	0.30	5.80	Fragment
45	Window	Glass	4.65	3.20	0.20	3.20	Fragment
46	Window	Glass	5.40	1.40	0.20	3.20	Fragment
47	Window	Glass	2.50	1.70	0.20	0.70	Fragment
48	Bottle	Glass	5.60	4.20	0.30	18.70	Green frag.
49	Bottle	Glass	4.30	2.50	0.50	8.00	Lt. green
50	Mammal	Bone	10.70	5.30	2.20	23.10	T-bone

ALTAVILLE SCHOOL CATALOG (CDF SCREENING)

51	Mammal	Bone	8.30	2.00	1.80	17.50	Rib eye
52	Mammal	Bone	7.30	2.20	1.50	9.20	Fragment
53	Mammal	Bone	12.50	1.70	0.30	7.60	Sawed rib
54	Aves sp.	Bone	7.00	1.00	0.90	3.00	Bird bone
55	Chalk	Chalk	4.00	1.20	1.00	2.60	Nubbin
56	Chalk	Chalk	3.00	1.00	1.00	1.70	Nubbin
57	Chalk	Chalk	3.00	1.20	1.00	1.60	Nubbin
58	Chalk	Chalk	3.00	0.90	0.70	0.90	Nubbin
59	Chalk	Chalk	2.30	1.70	1.10	1.10	Fragment
60	Chalk	Chalk	1.90	1.00	0.90	0.70	Nubbin
61	Chalk	Chalk	2.10	1.00	0.80	0.90	Fragment
62	Chalk	Chalk	2.00	1.00	1.80	0.90	Fragment
63	Chalk	Chalk	1.50	0.90	0.70	0.60	Nubbin
64	Chalk	Chalk	1.70	0.80	0.80	0.50	Nubbin
65	Fragment	Metal	12.00	2.30	1.60	130.10	
66	Slate	Slate	11.00	5.50	0.10	92.50	Fragment
67	Slate	Slate	14.00	4.70	0.20	28.40	Fragment
68	Slate	Slate	10.00	6.00	0.20	42.40	Edge frag.
69	Slate	Slate	9.00	4.30	0.20	17.20	Fragment
70	Slate	Slate	6.00	4.30	0.20	12.10	Fragment
71	Slate	Slate	6.50	3.30	0.20	10.10	Fragment
72	Slate	Slate	6.20	5.70	0.20	2.60	Fragment
73	Slate	Slate	4.50	2.70	0.20	4.00	Fragment
74	Slate	Slate	4.00	1.70	0.20	2.80	Beveled edge
75	Slate	Slate	2.00	1.70	0.20	0.40	Fragment
76	Slate	Slate	3.00	1.50	0.20	0.60	Fragment
77	School slate	Slate	10.50	6.50	0.30	33.60	Fragment
78	School slate	Slate	9.00	4.00	4.00	26.10	Fragment
79	School slate	Slate	5.20	4.50	4.50	8.50	Fragment
80	School slate	Slate	5.20	3.50	3.50	5.40	Fragment
81	School slate	Slate	6.00	3.50	3.50	5.30	Edge fragment
82	School slate	Slate	5.90	2.30	2.30	4.10	Edge fragment
83	School slate	Slate	4.00	3.00	3.00	4.50	Fragment
84	School slate	Slate	5.50	4.00	4.00	6.20	Fragment
85	School slate	Slate	3.00	1.70	1.70	1.00	Fragment
86	School slate	Slate	4.20	3.30	3.30	5.30	Fragment
87	Vessel	Ceramic	7.30	5.00	0.50	223.00	Fragment; Station 1G
88	Desk chair part?	Metal (iron)	20.50	4.60	0.30	293.70	Fragment.
89	School slate	Slate	8.70	5.70	0.20	30.10	Edge fragment,

ALTAVILLE SCHOOL CATALOG (CDF SCREENING)

							incised initials
90	Window	Glass	6.20	4.30	0.20	9.10	Edge fragment, opalized
91	Window	Glass	5.00	2.70	2.70	4.10	Fragment
92	Window	Glass	3.80	3.20	3.20	3.50	Fragment opalized
93	Window	Glass	3.20	1.30	1.30	0.70	Fragment opalized
94	Window	Glass	6.20	3.80	3.80	6.80	Corner fragment, opalized
95	Ring	Metal	15.00	1.90	1.10	415.10	Flanged
96	Cut nail 10d	Metal	7.50	0.70	0.40	6.30	Square nail
97	Horse-shoe	Metal	16.50	14.50	1.50	573.00	Has 3 nails in it
98	Horse-shoe	Metal	17.20	15.00	1.00	456.60	Worn
99	Mammal mandible	Bone	7.00	2.00	0.50	3.40	cf. Pack rat, ascending ramus fragment
100	Slate	Slate	7.50	6.20	0.20	26.50	Fragment, Station 1E
101	Cut nail 12d	Metal	8.00	0.50	0.30	7.40	Station 1C
102	Black-board chalk	Chalk	3.00	0.90	0.90	1.40	
103	Rotary eraser wheel	Rubber	3.80	3.80	0.30	8.10	Worn
104	Car-tridge	Brass	1.90	1.70	1.70	3.40	cf. .38 caliber c/f; base
105	Pencil	Slate	9.50	0.50	0.50	4.90	mid-section
106	Pencil	Slate	6.00	0.50	0.50	3.20	Sharpened
107	Pencil	Slate	6.00	0.50	0.50	2.60	Milled flat and knife sharpened
108	Pencil	Slate	5.80	0.50	0.50	2.90	Milled flat and knife sharpened; clamp scars
109	Bottle	Glass	4.50	1.80	0.50	11.10	Base fragment; opaque
110	Bottle	Glass	9.00	5.00	0.70	199.70	Fragment,

	base							green, kick-up of wine or champagne bottle Station 1H
111	Handle	Wood cf. bamboo	14.80	2.00		0.10	2.10	Fragment

ALTAVILLE SCHOOL CATALOG (CDF SCREENING)

NO.	ARTIFACT TYPE	MATERIAL TYPE	LENGTH (cm)	WIDTH (cm)	THICKNESS (cm)	WEIGHT (gm)	REMARKS (Condition)
112	Pencil	Wood	8.00	0.70	0.70	1.00	Fragment, eraser end
113	Round pointed piece	Wood	7.50	2.00	0.50	1.60	Purposely rounded
114	Piece of wood	Wood	5.00	1.20	0.70	1.70	Fragment
115	Wood sliver	Wood	10.20	0.50	0.10	0.40	Possible pencil fragment
116 to 163	Window fragments	Glass					Opalized
		Largest	8.00	3.30	0.20	9.00	No. 116
		Smallest	2.30	1.80	0.20	0.90	No. 161
162	Window	Glass	3.50	2.90	0.20	4.40	Clear
163	Window	Glass	5.00	3.10	0.20	7.60	Corner fragment tinted green
164	Door key	Metal	9.00	3.00	0.70	26.90	Skeleton
165 to 184	School slate pieces	Slate					Fragments
		Largest	8.30	7.50	0.30	30.50	No. 165
		Smallest	2.20	1.70	0.10	0.80	No. 184
185	Bottle	Glass	2.50	2.00	0.30	2.20	Green, opalized fragment
186	Unknown	Rubber	5.00	1.50	0.50	2.50	
187	Blackboard chalk	Chalk	2.70	1.00	1.00	1.00	
188	Rodent tooth	Enamel	2.00	0.30	0.20	0.10	Incisor cf. packrat No. 99
189	Pencil	Slate	4.30	0.30	0.30	1.50	Metal fragment adheres
190	Pencil	Slate	4.30	0.40	0.40	2.30	Pointed, two circumscribed grooves
191	Pencil	Slate	4.00	0.40	0.40	2.10	Pointed, spiral grooves
192	Pencil	Slate	6.30	0.40	0.40	3.20	Fragment two flat sides with milling marks; pointed
193	Pencil	Slate	3.50	0.40	0.40	1.60	Fragment with

							milling marks, two flat sides; pointed
194	Pencil	Slate	4.50	0.40	0.40	2.10	Fragment; pointed
195	Pencil	Slate	3.30	0.40	0.40	1.20	Fragment, elongated sharp point
196	Pencil	Slate	4.20	0.40	0.40	2.00	Fragment, rounded point
197	Pencil	Slate	3.30	0.40	0.40	1.10	Fragment elongated point
198	Pencil	Slate	2.50	0.40	0.40	0.80	Fragment; pointed
199	Pencil	Slate	2.50	0.40	0.40	1.00	Fragment rounded point
200	Pencil	Slate	3.00	0.40	0.40	1.00	Complete rounded on both ends
201	Pencil	Slate	2.70	0.40	0.40	1.10	Midsection fragment
202	Pencil	Slate; light gray	3.00	0.50	0.50	1.30	Conical tip carefully finished
203	Pencil	Slate	1.70	0.40	0.40	0.50	Point fragment
204	Pencil	Slate	2.80	0.50	0.50	1.50	Complete bluntly roundly at both ends
205	Pencil	Slate	4.00	0.50	0.50	1.70	Fragment blunted on one end
206	Pencil	Slate	2.40	0.40	0.40	1.30	Fragment blunted on one end
207	Pencil	Slate	2.70	0.40	0.40	1.10	Blunted fragment
208	Pencil	Slate	4.70	0.50	0.50	3.00	Fragment distal end
209	Pencil	Slate	4.70	0.40	0.40	1.90	Fragment distal end
210	Pencil	Slate	4.30	0.50	0.50	2.00	Fragment distal end
211	Pencil	Slate	4.70	0.40	0.40	1.30	Complete blunted on both ends
212	Pencil	Slate	4.60	0.40	0.40	1.60	Fragment midsection

ALTAVILLE SCHOOL CATALOG (CDF SCREENING)

213	Pencil	Slate	3.50	0.50	0.50	1.70	Fragment midsection
214	Pencil	Slate	3.50	0.50	0.50	0.90	Fragment split longitudinally
215	Pencil	Slate	2.90	0.40	0.40	1.20	Fragment midsection
216	Pencil	Slate	2.60	0.40	0.40	1.20	Fragment midsection
217	Pencil	Slate	2.70	0.40	0.40	1.20	Fragment midsection
218	Pencil	Slate	1.80	0.40	0.40	0.90	Fragment midsection
219	Pencil	Slate	1.50	0.40	0.40	0.70	Fragment midsection
220	Pencil	Slate	1.14	0.40	0.40	0.50	Fragment midsection
221	Mammal	Bone	5.70	5.50	1.00	19.90	Sawed by butcher; long bone
222	Mammal	Bone	5.00	4.00	1.40	6.10	Sawed by butcher
223	Aves sp. (bird)	Bone	5.50	0.50	0.40	0.70	Shaft fragment
224	Aves sp. (bird)	Bone	5.50	1.20	1.20	0.80	Fragment
225	Aves sp. (bird)	Bone	3.00	0.30	0.20	0.20	Complete limb bone
226	Mammal	Bone	2.20	0.70	0.30	0.10	Femur
227	Aves sp. (bird)	Bone	4.10	0.40	0.10	0.10	Rib
228	Cut nail 18d	Metal	9.50	0.70	0.50	13.80	Complete
229	Cut nail 18d	Metal	9.50	0.70	0.50	11.60	Complete
230	Cut nail 12d	Metal	8.50	0.70	0.50	8.50	Complete
231	Cut nail 12d	Metal	8.50	0.70	0.50	8.50	Complete
232	Cut nail 12d	Metal	8.50	0.70	0.50	10.10	Complete
233	Cut nail 12d	Metal	8.50	0.70	0.50	10.50	Complete
234	Cut nail 12d	Metal	8.50	0.70	0.50	10.00	Complete
235	Cut nail 10d	Metal	7.50	0.70	0.50	8.00	Complete
236	Cut nail 10d	Metal	7.50	0.70	0.50	7.60	Complete
237	Cut nail 10d	Metal	7.50	0.70	0.50	6.70	Complete
238	Cut nail	Metal	7.50	0.70	0.50	5.30	Complete

ALTAVILLE SCHOOL CATALOG (CDF SCREENING)

	10d						
239	Cut nail 8d	Metal	6.50	0.70	0.30	3.40	Complete
240	Cut nail 8d	Metal	6.50	0.70	0.30	4.40	Complete
241	Cut nail 8d	Metal	6.50	0.70	0.30	4.40	Complete
242	Cut nail	Metal	4.40	0.70	0.40	5.40	Head fragment
243	Cut nail	Metal	4.40	0.70	0.40	4.00	Head fragment
244	Cut nail 6d	Metal	5.00	0.50	0.30	3.40	Complete
245	Cut nail	Metal	6.00	0.70	0.50	6.40	Shank fragment
246	Cut nail 10d	Metal	7.00	0.70	0.50	5.40	Complete bent
247	Wire nail	Metal	7.50	0.50	0.50	6.10	Complete 10D
248	Cut nail	Metal	5.00	0.70	0.50	2.90	Fragment bent
249	Cut nail	Metal	3.30	0.50	0.40	1.70	Shank fragment
250	Cut nail	Metal	5.70	0.50	0.40	5.00	Head missing
251	Wire nail	Metal	9.00	0.40	0.40	9.50	Complete 16D
252	Wire nail	Metal	9.00	0.40	0.40	10.20	Complete 16D
253	Wire nail	Metal	7.50	0.40	0.40	7.30	Complete 10D
254	Wire nail	Metal	7.50	0.40	0.40	6.70	Complete 10D
255	Wire nail	Metal	6.50	0.40	0.40	5.10	Complete 8D
256	Wire nail	Metal	6.50	0.40	0.40	4.70	Complete 8D
257	Wire nail	Metal	6.50	0.40	0.40	5.60	Complete 8D
258	Wire nail	Metal	6.50	0.30	0.30	3.90	Complete 8D
259	Wire nail	Metal	6.20	0.20	0.20	2.60	Complete 8D
260	Wire nail	Metal	5.00	0.30	0.30	3.00	Framing nail, 6D
261	Wire nail	Metal	5.00	0.30	0.30	3.10	Framing nail, 6D
262	Wire nail	Metal	5.00	0.20	0.20	2.30	Complete 6D
263 to 287	Metal fragments (unidentifiable)	Metal	2.20	2.00	0.10	1.20	No. 263
288	Wood	Wood	8.20	2.50	0.20	1.40	Fragment

ALTAVILLE SCHOOL CATALOG (CDF SCREENING)

							of slat
289	Dry-wall	Plaster	5.50	2.00	0.50	1.90	Fragment with paper attached
290	Plaster	Plaster	4.00	2.30	0.50	7.80	Fragment
291	Plaster	Plaster	2.50	1.70	0.50	1.10	Fragment
292	Dry-wall	Plaster	3.00	2.00	0.50	1.70	Fragment
293	Dry-wall	Paper	2.40	1.50	0.10	1.10	Paper fragment
294	Dry-wall	Paper/ Plaster	4.90	2.70	0.10	0.30	Fragment
295	Dry-wall	Plaster	4.00	3.00	0.10	0.30	Fragment
296	Dry-wall	Plaster	4.00	2.00	0.20	0.20	Fragment
297	Dry-wall	Paper	3.50	1.70	0.10	0.10	Fragment
298	Bonding agent (mortar)	Cement	7.30	6.00	2.00	111.70	Fragment
299	Glob	Cement	6.30	5.00	2.90	58.20	
300	Glob	Cement	3.50	2.50	1.50	9.90	
301	Glob	Cement	3.00	2.50	1.00	7.40	
302	Glob	Cement	3.30	1.70	1.70	3.50	
303	Piece of plaster	Plaster	2.50	2.00	0.40	1.50	Thin piece
304	Plaster	Plaster	1.70	1.00	0.40	0.50	Fragment
305	Asbestos	Asbestos	2.50	0.70	0.10	0.50	Fragment
306	Brick	Brick	6.00	3.00	2.00	22.90	Fragment
307	Brick	Brick	3.30	2.60	1.90	14.80	Fragment of corner
308	Brick	Brick	3.50	3.50	0.90	8.20	Fragment
309	Clod	Clay	3.00	2.70	1.50	8.60	Fragment
310	Clod	Clay	3.60	2.50	1.70	11.00	Fragment
311	Clod	Clay	2.30	2.00	1.40	4.60	Fragment
312	Rock	Rock	2.70	1.70	0.70	3.20	Fragment
313	Wood screw	Metal	4.50	0.70	0.70	9.96	Flat head complete
314	Carriage bolt	Metal	4.00	0.70	0.70	17.40	Bolt head fragment
315	Dry-wall saw	Metal	8.70	1.00	0.20	5.90	Distal fragment
316	Thumb tack	Metal	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.80	Complete
317	School slate	Slate	5.50	4.50	0.30	10.90	Fragment
318	School slate	Slate	3.50	1.70	0.10	1.20	Fragment
319	School slate	Slate	1.20	0.70	0.10	0.20	Fragment
320	Ferrule	Brass/ wood	4.10	0.60	0.60	1.10	Artist brush fragment
321	Mammal	Bone	6.50	2.70	2.50	17.80	Sawed end proximal condyle

ALTAVILLE SCHOOL CATALOG (CDF SCREENING)

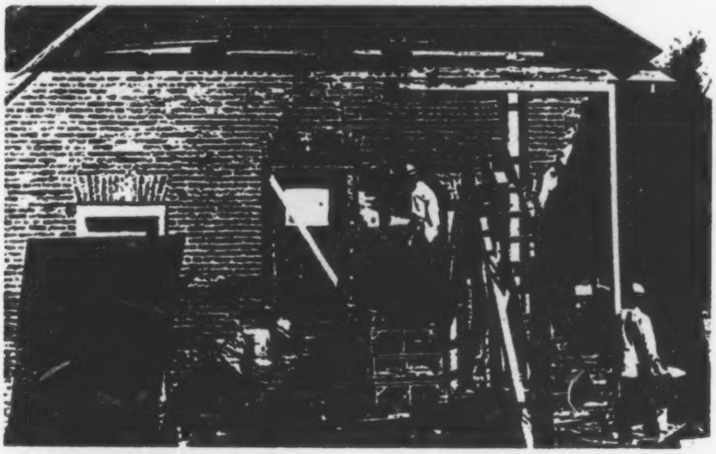
							humerus
322	Aves sp. (bird)	Bone	3.50	1.70	1.00	1.30	Proximal femur fragment
323	Window (single strength)	Glass	5.60	5.00	0.20	12.90	Fragment of edge; opalized
324	Tennis ball	Rubber	6.00	6.00	6.00	47.00	Rubber core, partially tinted red
325	Wood	Wood	14.00	1.00	0.60	3.60	Sliver, two milled sides
326	Horse-shoe	Metal	15.50	14.00	0.70	339.00	With two nails
327	Axe head	Metal	16.00	10.50	0.70	1,407.00	Hand-forged? Single-edge
328	Flake?	Chert	3.00	2.00	1.00	6.00	Lustrous
329	Misc. sediment	Soil & rust	NA	NA	NA	99.00	
330	Lead shot	Lead	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	cf. No. 5 Shot

Appendix B

COMMUNIQUE'

SEPTEMBER 1983

Baseline restores 115-year-old school



Imagine being given the task of picking up a 115-year-old brick building and moving it 200 yards without even disturbing the mortar.

Having spent the winter restoring it, a California Department of Forestry inmate hand crew from Baseline Conservation Camp now plans to do exactly that with the old Altaville Elementary School at the CDF Altaville Station, in Calaveras County.

The old structure, built by gold rush miners, was in such a state of disrepair when Fire Crew Supervisor Alan Stovall and Baseline Crew Four began the restoration, it was considered hazardous.

Portions of the south and west walls of the old one-room school had crumbled and fallen away. Its floor, rotted and sagging, had broken through in places to the bare ground beneath it. At the suggestion of State Forest Ranger III Ray Stewart, Officials at the Department of Forestry's Baseline Conservation Camp, the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors, the Calaveras County Historical Society, and the Angels Camp City Council joined forces in early 1982 to draft a restoration plan for the old building.

Aided by Sacramento Architect Bob McCabe, who was involved in restoration and moving of similar structures in Old Sacramento, a specific plan to return the schoolhouse to its original condition, and move it to the new site was agreed upon. The actual reconstruction began in January.

Protected by large sheets of plastic to block the rain and chilling winds that whistled through its gaping walls, the Baseline crew, under Fire Crew Supervisor Stovall's supervision, began shoring up and rebuilding, using the original bricks salvaged on-site.

With restoration plans calling for the school's original split shake roof, long ago covered by now rusted sheets of corrugated iron, to be replaced with new ones, bolts of new shingle material in the form of straight grained sugar pine, were brought in.

Neither Fire Crew Supervisor Stovall or any members of his crew had ever manufactured shakes or seen the long bladed old hand froes which were used to split them from the pine blocks.

First, from old automobile spring leaves, they made the blades with which to do the splitting. Then, gathering bits of information here and there on how the shakes are split from the pine bolts, the Baseline crew began the time consuming job of manufacturing them.

The result was stacks of clear, straight grained, 28-inch shakes as good or better than the originals, which will be used to roof the old school after it is moved.

With the exception of times in recent weeks when they have been called for fire fighting duty, the Baseline crew has worked steadily on returning the old school to its original state. Now, with its walls rebuilt, the battered tin roof has been pulled off and the building's wood floor torn out, in preparation for the actual moving of the old structure.

Work is now underway on preparation of its new site, a park area fronting on Highway 49, some 200 feet from its present location. In this oak-shaded spot the old school will receive more notice from gold country tourists and they will be able to view and visit without hampering movement of CDF firefighting equipment and crews.

Following the site preparation, the inmate crew, working with a moving firm, will frame the base of the building tightly with heavy beams to keep the walls from shifting during the actual moving operation.

The old structure, originally built with funds raised at a miner's dance and used as a classroom until 1950, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Baseline Camp Ranger Lou Gonzalez has stated that the success of this project has been due to the interest and dedication of Fire Crew Supervisor Stovall and his crew.

CCC plans 50th anniversary

. . . Chapter 34 of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Angels National Forest will conduct a special presentation in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the CCC. Guest speakers will be USFS Regional Forester Zane Smith, Chief Rex Griggs of CDF's Region VI and Chief Clyde Bragdon of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

The ceremonies will be held at 1400 hours on September 24, 1983 behind the Junior Fair Building in the southeast portion of the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds.

If you have any materials relating to the 50 years of the Civilian Conservation Corps which could be used for display or if you have any questions, please contact Gordon Rowley at the Angels National Forest (213) 577-0050.

Quarterly Bulletin of the Calaveras County Historical Society
Volume XXXII October, 1983 Number 1

Calaveras County Historical Society

30 Main Street
San Andreas, California 95249
P.O. Box 721

President .... Mrs. Betty Snyder, Valley Springs
First Vice-President .... Jack Kennedy, San Andreas
Second Vice-President .... Mrs. Zelma Altmeyer, San Andreas
Treasurer .... Richard Barger, Murphys
Secretary .... Mrs. Rosemary Faulkner, Mountain Ranch
Membership Secretary .... Mrs. Lillian Filippini, San Andreas
Directors .... Fred Cuneo, Calaveritas
Charles Filippini, San Andreas
Drew Garland, Murphys
Eldred Lane, Mountain Ranch
Miss Bessie McGinnis, Angels Camp

"LAS CALAVERAS"

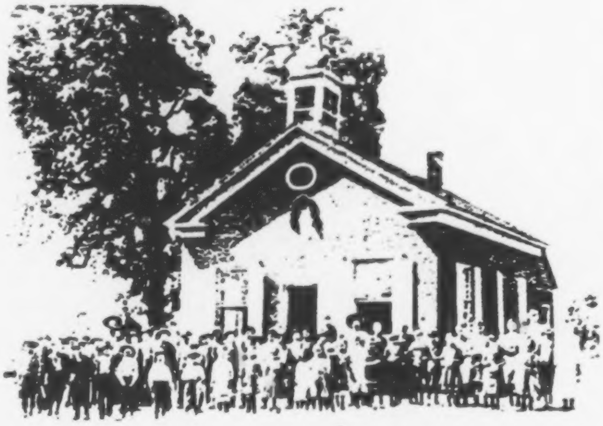
Editor .... W. P. Fuller, Jr., San Andreas
Production Editor .... Mrs. Zelma O. Altameyer, San Andreas

Las Calaveras is published quarterly by the Calaveras County Historical Society. Individual memberships ($6.00 a year). Family ($8.00) and Junior memberships ($1.00) include subscriptions to **Las Calaveras**. Non-members may obtain copies of **Las Calaveras** from the secretary. The original historical material in this bulletin is not copyrighted and anyone is invited to use it. Mention of the source will be appreciated.

OUR SCHOOLHOUSE PROJECTS

As we go to press (late as usual), the Altaville schoolhouse has been moved safely to its new location near the highway, in front of the State Forestry Station. Restoration will continue as weather permits, and especially as additional funds become available. As many of you know, the County and the City of Angels have each provided $5000, and the Society $2500 for the restoration. In addition, members of the Society, members of the Berkeley City Club, and other individuals and organizations have contributed (at last count) some $7350. Local suppliers have helped by making materials available at a special price or as a donation. The State Forestry and the Baseline Camp continue to provide substantial help in supplying labor and some equipment. However, additional funds will be needed to complete the restoration. The society will be pleased to receive such funds, which are tax exempt expenditures, and forward them to the Committee.

Another project that has been in progress for a year or so is the collecting of pictures of our early schools, many of which were of the one-room variety, and of information about them and the teachers and pupils. We hope to conclude this study with publication of a book on the Historic Schools of Calaveras County.



ALTAVILLE SCHOOL

Just 100 years ago, nearly sixty pupils and their teachers stand in front of the school for the annual picture. The Prince, Demarest, Frazier, Nuninger, Baumhogger, Becker, Lee, Starr, Marchal and Smith families were among those sending children to Altaville school in the early 1880's. *Society Files*

Many persons have assisted the committee in supplying pictures and information. But we still need pictures of the schools listed below. If you can help, please get in touch with Eva Soracco, Star Route 3, San Andreas, CA 95249, or Bessie McGinnis, P.O. Box 542, Angels Camp, CA 95222.

Bald Mountain
Bear Mountain
Big Trees
Black Hill
Burson
Cave City
Evergreen
Lincoln
Negro Gulch
Oak Grove
O'Byrnes Ferry
Pine Log
Pleasant Springs
Rindge
Table Mountain
Taylor's Bar
Union
Washington Ranch

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members:
Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Arighi, Arnold
Celia M. Beltramo, Angels Camp
Mrs. Charles Gross, Marysville
Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Peyton, San Andreas
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Stewart, Mountain Ranch
Myrtle E. Severy, Tracy
James Sanders, Woodland
Mr. and Mrs. Roy D. Wathen, Mountain Ranch
Kern County Historical Society, Bakersfield

perate sewer and garbage ystems in addition to water ystems, its major function. t only makes sense, the rand jury letter states, for CWD to have three departents (water, sewers and arbage) in a single coordin-

disappeared out of the backyard of the family home on French Gulch road just after noon on January 19.

According to Deputy Jim Stenquist, a lost child can usually be expected to take the course of least resistance, so

than a mile from the house in grass over his head.

When deputies got to the boy, he told them that his mommy and daddy were lost.

Deputy Stenquist added that it began to rain a short time after they found the boy.

attempt to impose a special tax for roads went down to defeat in an election, but after residents presented petitions to the board of supervisors, a County service area was formed for Rancho Calaveras specifically for roads.

City gift starts job of moving old Altaville school building

The Angels Camp city ouncil last week reversed a revious decision and agreed donate $5,000 to the Calaeras Historical Society to aid the restoration of the old ltaville school.

The council had previously ffered to lend the money but eclined an outright gift. The ounty board of supervisors complicated the matter by agreeing to match any funds donated by the city, but refused to match a loan.

The historical society asked for the donations to help pay for restoring the old brick building in preparation for moving it from its present location down closer to the highway.

The building, owned by the historical society, currently sits on state land in the Altaville California department of forestry facility. The state wants the building moved to make it easier to move fire trucks around the facility, and has offered to give the historical society land fronting the highway.

Councilman Tad Folendorf told the council that after discussions with the historical society he came to the conclusion that it would be in the best interest of the city to donate the money. The society has indicated that it intends to support all of the museums in the County, both public and private, when it finally receives an anticipated inheritance that may amount to more than $500,000.

The city's museum is in need of numerous repairs and restoration work, and the city could use help in financing those projects. "I think we're going to get more out of them than we're giving them, in the long run," Folendorf said.

The council voted to shift $5,000 in federal revenue funds which had been set aside for museum restoration to the Altaville school project. A public hearing on the transfer is scheduled for February 1.

In the meantime restoration work on the school has already begun with crews from CDF and the California Conservation Corps rebuilding a brick wall which collapsed last winter. The building has been shored up and stabilized so that it is no longer in danger of collapsing. Once the walls are complete, probably some time this spring, the entire structure will be moved down to the highway.

THE OLD ALTAVILLE SCHOOL, an historic monument, is due for a move.

them at last cou amount, on the residents of an equally from goo

However, it tu the roads may n good. The de public works fig that it would be e about $6 million and pave all the subdivision. Th to some $1,650 p than $400 per ye sent plan to imp sessment for four years is followed

That's probab Frank Torres, de

(Continued on Pa

Sewer now h

The City of Wilford Gomes dreas have locke dispute over sew has resulted in G suit against the c city's threatening nect his sewers.

Gomes, throug ney, Ken Foley of as, has filed suit i County Superior tending that in sewer fees in the were a violation tion 13.

Gomes owns se of property in An and has exper same raises in se the rest of the city

Calaveras County Historical Society

SAN ANDREAS, CALIFORNIA, 95249

February 15, 1984

Dear Members of the Calaveras County Historical Society:

The purpose of this letter is to bring you an update on the progress of the restoration of the Altaville School.

The brick building has been successfully moved intact and is now sitting on its permanent foundation located on Highway 49 at the Division of Forestry headquarters in Altaville. The restoration of the exterior includes a new, hand-split, cedar shake roof and the repair and installation of the original bell tower. During the coming week new, custom-made doors and windows will be installed which will authentically duplicate the design and material used in the original structure. In addition, it is planned to construct a lean-to on the back of the building as existed originally. This will also be true to the design used on the original schoolhouse.

Following the completion of this exterior restoration, the brick walls will be treated with a preservative sealer tinted to match the original painted surface of the bricks. All wooden doors, windows and trim will then be painted white to match the original.

In order for your Society to complete all of this final phase of the exterior restoration, additional funds are being solicited from our friends and members. Even though the Historical Society has allocated additional funding from its treasury, we are still short the necessary amount of money to realize the completion of this phase of the project. Therefore, we are requesting whatever additional financial assistance you can render at this time. Time is of the essence in your responding to this appeal inasmuch as we still have the manpower available through the Division of Forestry to complete this work. However, this source of volunteer labor will only be available to us for a limited time more so we must come up with the necessary monies to purchase the needed materials now.

We do thank you so very much for your past interest and financial assistance and hope that you will be able to come up with "just a little bit more" to help your Society realize the completion of this very worthwhile project.

Tax-deductible contributions may be mailed to the Calaveras County Historical Society, P.O. Box 721, San Andreas, CA. 95249, Attention: Jack W. Kennedy, President.

Sincerely,

Jack W. Kennedy

Jack W. Kennedy

/lk

Calaveras County Historical Society
SAN ANDREAS, CALIFORNIA, 95249

June 26, 1984

Mr. Jerry Partain, Director
California Department of Forestry
1416 - 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Partain:

Upon completion of the restoration of the Altaville School building and its relocation, which was a joint project of the California Division of Forestry and Calaveras County Historical Society, I am submitting this letter of commendation for Allan Stovall, Fire Captain B, California Department of Forestry, who operates from Baseline Conservation Camp, Jamestown, California.

When I first inspected this building, it appeared to be beyond repair or beyond practical restoration. Nevertheless, under the direction of Architect McCabe, Allan Stovall and a crew of inmates went to work during the off fire season to accomplish this difficult restoration project.

Allan's resoursefulness and ability to follow technical instructions and improvise when necessary to get on with the project was superb. His attention to detail and thoroughness is outstanding. He possesses that rare ability to handle men and maintain their respect and admiration.

The Calaveras County Historical Society is very grateful for Allan's and for the California Department of Forestry's part in accomplishing the restoration and relocation of this brick school building, a monument of which the community and county are proud.

Sincerely yours,

Eldred L. Lane, Chairman
Altaville School Committee

ELL/sh
cc: Calaveras County
Historical Society

EST FOR APPROVAL OF PROPOSED DEPARTMENTAL LEGISLATION **RESOURCES**

BILL CONTROL No. RA-86-32

PARTMENT: FORESTRY

LE: Disposal of the Altaville Schoolhouse Historical Site

MARY:

CDF has in its control land upon which there is a one-room brick schoolhouse built in 1858. It is the only one-room brick schoolhouse building remaining in the Mother Lode area of California, and is of great historical value. The building is located in the Altaville Townsite on State Route 49 near the junction of State Route 4. Its historical value and attraction as a historical site is a liability to the Department of Forestry. Its location makes it accessible to visitors which require parking, sanitary facilities and management by an attendant. The Department of Forestry is unable to provide for this public use, or to provide protection from vandals or caretaking services. Also, the Department of Parks and Recreation does not have staff in the immediate area to provide these services. The Calaveras County Historical Society will operate the facility as a historic museum and assume all operating obligations if the land, approximately 0.58 acres, is conveyed to them without cost.

Proposed Solutions:

Chapter 1384, page 2

1. Existing Law: Legislation (AB 2713/1984) authorizing the disposal of the 0.58 acre parcel containing the schoolhouse was passed last year. Unfortunately, this legislation contained restrictions as to the method of disposal, none of which allowed for conveyance to the Calaveras County Historical Society without fees being collected.

   The Historical Society is the only responsible group interested in acquiring, preserving and operating this facility for its historic significance, and has cooperated with the Department of Forestry in restoration efforts undertaken to date. They have contributed more than $20,000 to help preserve the facility and its historical significance.

2. Proposed Change: Allow for the conveyance of the 0.58 acre parcel with improvements to the Calaveras County Historical Society at no cost, subject to certain safeguards that would assure its operation in the best interest and benefit to the people of California.

3. Justification: The schoolhouse is currently a burdensome liability to the State. Staffing would need to be provided to maintain and operate the facility in a satisfactory manner. The Calaveras County Historical Society was

(Continued on attached sheet)

GGESTED AUTHOR:		APPROVED AUTHOR:		Governors office use APPROVED BY GOVERNOR'S OFFICE TW 6/9
PARTMENT HEAD:	DATE: 5/8/86	AGENCY HEAD: Original Signed By Marsha M. Johnson	DATE: MAY 29 1986	

formed to provide private funding and care for items of historic value by the local citizenry. It is the only group which has shown an interest in preserving the site and operating it as a facility open to the public. To assure its use as a public facility, the conveyance will contain language that would assure responsible operation on behalf of the public and require reconveyance back to the State in the event of violation of the safeguard clauses. Such language has been developed jointly with the representatives of the Departments of Forestry and General Services, Assemblyman Waters, and Senator Garamendi's Office, and the Calaveras County Historical Society.

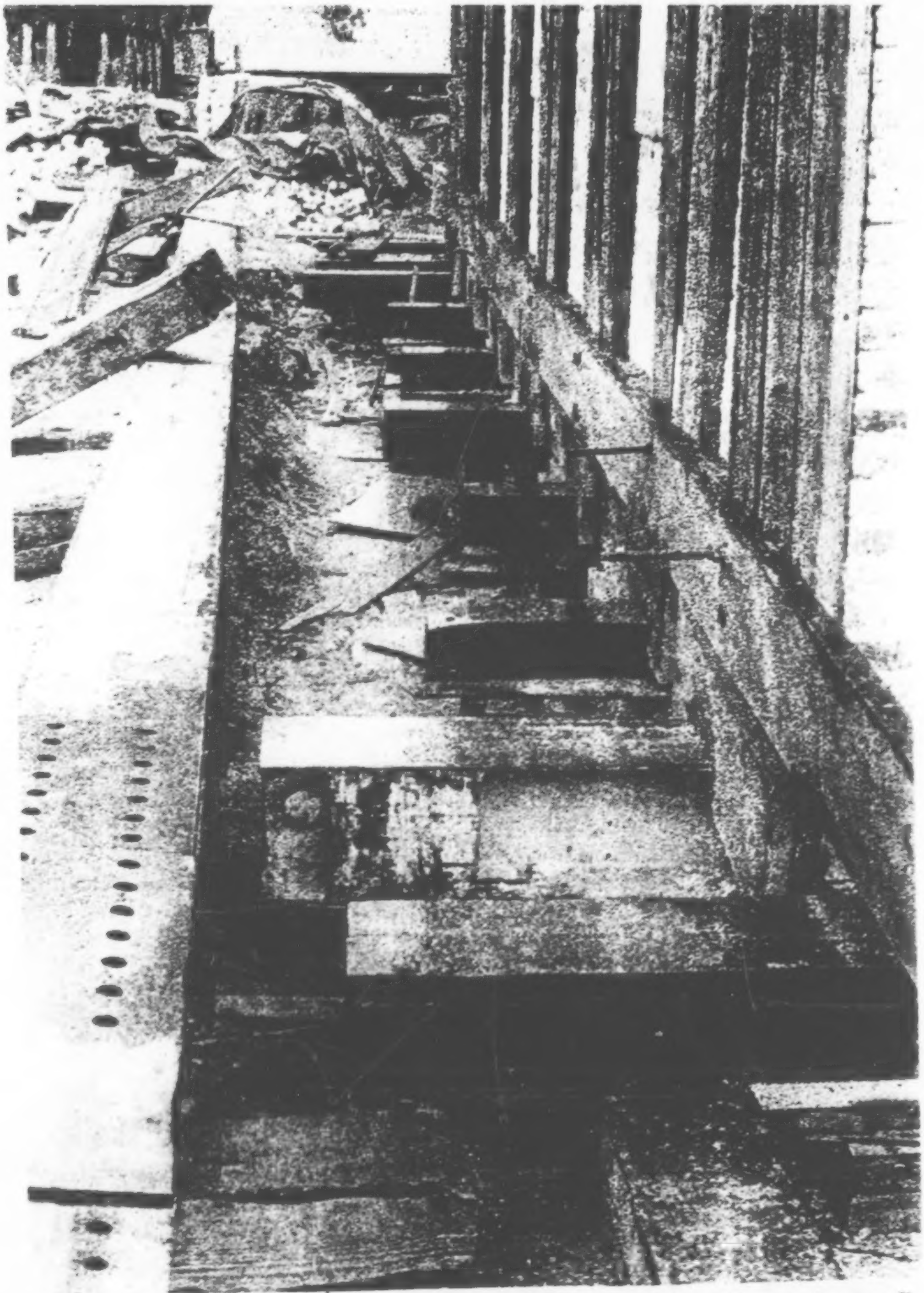
scal Impact: None

The State will rid itself of a liability it now holds. The public will be able to enjoy visiting the site as it will be on display by the Historical Society, and the State will always be able to take the parcel back if the public is not well served.

gislative
story: None

The transfer of this property will enable the Calaveras County Historical Society to make available this historically significant facility to the public for their benefit and enjoyment.

This action is proposed for amendment into SB1510 (Senator Presley)



***THE RELOCATION OF HISTORIC** Altaville School is delayed by weather conditions. The contractor has placed steel beams beneath the floor and reinforced the crumbling brick walls with wood on both sides. The relocation is a community project sponsored by the Calaveras County Historical Society.*

VOICE OF THE MOTHER LODE

CALAVERAS ENTERPRISE

Wednesday, April 25, 1984

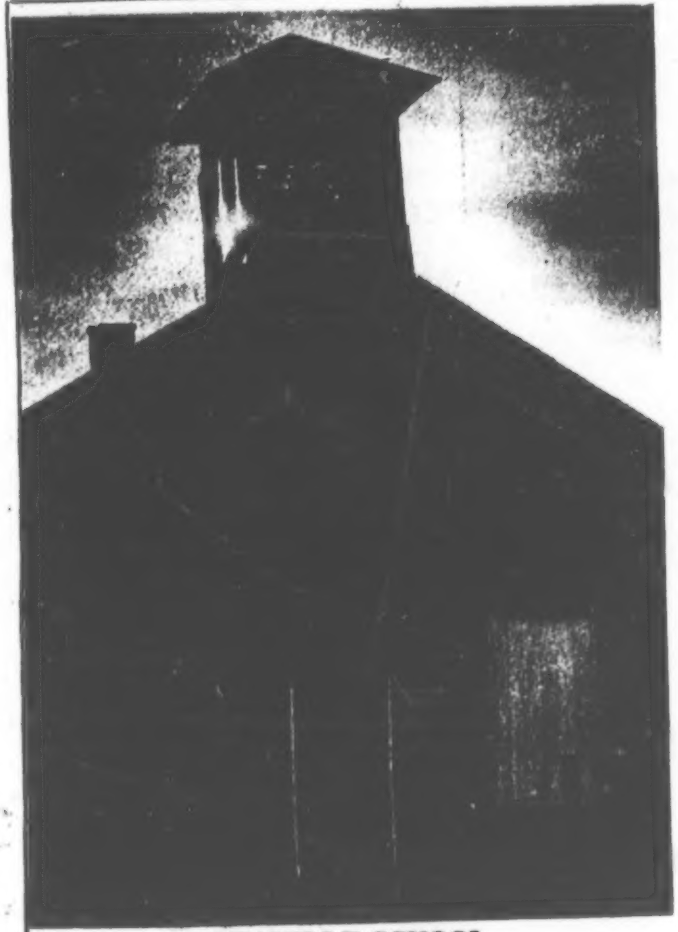
Volume XX, No. 33

2 Sections, 24 Pages, 20c A Copy

Old Altaville school dedicated

THE CALAVERAS Historical Society held a formal dedication ceremony for the old Altaville school last Saturday. Among those taking part were, from left, Jack Kennedy, president of the Society; Alan Stovall from CDF's Baseline Conservation Camp, whose prisoners did most of the restoration work; and Eldred Lane, also of the Society. The school was moved several months ago from CDF property to its new site on Highway 49 in Altaville.

Altaville School Restoration Funding Sought



ALTAVILLE SCHOOL

ANGELS CAMP - Funding for restoration of the historic Altaville School remains a questionmark following an appeal for county support Monday.

The matter was continued for one week to explore the possibility that the City of Angels might put up half of the $10,000 which was requested from the county at Monday's meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

State Forestry Operations Officer Ray Stewart asked the county to help fund the project to move the old brick building from its present site in the middle of California Department of Forestry property to a tree-shaded spot closer to Highway 49.

CDF actually owns the school, having acquired it when the forestry station property was purchased, and proposes to lease the old building to the County Historical Society.

The Historical Society and Native Daughters of the Golden West have both taken an active role in the project and have completed plans for the restoration but funding has not been determined. Plans call for crews from Sierra Conservation Camp near Jamestown to do the actual restoration work.

Stewart told the supervisors about $10,000 is needed now to help finance the project, and possibly as much as $20,000 will be needed for the actual moving of the old building.

Alice Lea, speaking for the Native Daughters, asked the county to put up at least part of the money.

The supervisors suggested the county might be able to furnish $5,000 if the city of Angels Camp would match that amount.

The old brick schoolhouse is in such a state of disrepair that two walls are beginning to crumble. In addition, it poses a problem for CDF because tourists who turn off the highway to see the school are often confronted with fire trucks leaving the station enroute to a fire.

Enterprise, June 16, 1982

Altaville School

Dedication set June 11

Angels Camp

Restoration of the historic Altaville Schoolhouse is nearing completion, with a dedication ceremony planned June 11.

Students who studied at the school are urged to attend as special guests. Three of their former teachers - Marcella Avery, Ted Bird and Bob Groves - will participate in the program. All former Altaville students attending will be recognized during the festivities.

The program begins at 3 p.m. with an old-fashioned band concert in the schoolyard featuring the Angels Camp Community Band, directed by Phil Stock. The public is invited.

Dedication ceremonies will follow at 4 p.m. Dignitaries participating will include Assemblyman Norm Waters, who assisted the Calaveras County Historical Society in gaining title to the old building, which sits on state property as part of the California Department of Forestry complex in Altaville.

The building was moved to its present location fronting Highway 49 in 1983 through a cooperative effort of the Historical Society, the County of Calaveras and City of Angels Camp, which jointly funded the moving project. Crews from the CDF Baseline Camp at Jamestown provided the labor.

Once the Historical Society was granted title last year, restoration of the interior of the school began. That phase was bolstered by a $22,500 grant from the Burlington Northern Foundation, presented to the Historical Society in early March.

The foundation makes grant funds available through its companies, including Meridian Minerals Company, whose subsidiary, Meridian Gold Company, has recently brought a large open-pit gold mine into production near Copperopolis.

The Altaville School was constructed in 1858 and was used continuously until 1950. The public - especially anyone who attended or had family members who attended the school - is invited to the dedication. Former students planning to attend should call the Historical Society office at 754-1058 to assure proper recognition.

WORKMEN PREPARE for the final stages of restoration at the historic Altaville School while members of the Historical Society confer in background with former teachers on details of the June 11 dedication. All former students of the school are urged to attend.

rm No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED Final Copy
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

AnGELS CAMP Quad Mapped!

HISTORIC
Altaville Grammar School

AND/OR COMMON
The Old Altaville School/Red Brick Grammar School

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
125 North Main Street

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Angels Camp

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fourteenth

STATE
Calif.

CODE
06

COUNTY
Calaveras

CODE
009

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
- __ DISTRICT
- X BUILDING(S)
- __ STRUCTURE
- __ SITE
- __ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP
- X PUBLIC
- __ PRIVATE
- __ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- __ IN PROCESS
- __ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
- __ OCCUPIED
- X UNOCCUPIED
- __ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE
- X YES: RESTRICTED
- __ YES: UNRESTRICTED
- __ NO

PRESENT USE
- __ AGRICULTURE
- __ COMMERCIAL
- __ EDUCATIONAL
- __ ENTERTAINMENT
- __ GOVERNMENT
- __ INDUSTRIAL
- __ MILITARY
- __ MUSEUM
- __ PARK
- __ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- __ RELIGIOUS
- __ SCIENTIFIC
- __ TRANSPORTATION
- X OTHER: Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
California State Division of Forestry

STREET & NUMBER
1416 9th Street (Department of Resources)

CITY, TOWN
Sacramento

__ VICINITY OF

STATE
Calif. 95814

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER
Government Center Mountain Ranch Road

CITY, TOWN
San Andreas

STATE
Calif. 95249

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
California State Landmark #499

DATE
December 4, 1951

__ FEDERAL X STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS State Office of Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN
P.O. Box 2390, Sacramento

STATE
Calif. 95811

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

_PREHISTORIC
_1400-1499
_1500-1599
_1600-1699
_1700-1799
[✓ 1800-1899]
_1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
_AGRICULTURE
[✓ ARCHITECTURE]
_ART
_COMMERCE
_COMMUNICATIONS

_COMMUNITY PLANNING
_CONSERVATION
_ECONOMICS
[✓ EDUCATION]
_ENGINEERING
_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
_INDUSTRY
_INVENTION

_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
_LAW
_LITERATURE
_MILITARY
_MUSIC
_PHILOSOPHY
_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

_RELIGION
_SCIENCE
_SCULPTURE
_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_THEATER
_TRANSPORTATION
_OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES erected 1858

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Builder unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Altaville Grammar School, built in 1858, is significant for its historic association with the development of Altaville, California. The one-room schoolhouse operated as the only educational facility, serving the community until 1950. It is one of the oldest schoolhouses in California. The architectural significance of the building is based on its style; a vernacular translation of a Greek Revival design.

The brick building was erected, with funds raised by a dance in the Billiard Saloon of the N.R. Prince Building, on land donated by Thomas Frazier. The schoolhouse became a State Landmark in 1954. Despite the deterioration noted above, the Altaville Schoolhouse retains most of its original fabric and is an important landmark in the Mother Lode region of California.

The schoolhouse is a vernacular adaptation of the Greek Revival style popular in the United States between 1820 and 1860. The last date of the Altaville Schoolhouse falls after the heyday of the style which was in the 1830's and 1840's. The date of the schoolhouse is governed largely by the historical development of the Mother Lode region which occurred primarily after 1848 with the beginning of the Gold Rush. The popularity of the style is to be noted in the fact that the general style of the locale was Greek Revival. As noted by historian Harold Kirker, this style "remained the domestic vernacular on California's architectural frontier until after the completion of the Pacific Railroad."[1]

The Greek Revival style appeared in the United States in 1798 with a design by William Latrobe, the first professionally trained architect in the U.S. The popularity of the style spread quickly due to its political associations (it was seen as the style of ancient democracies) and social associations (it was viewed as a welcome break with the English based Georgian and Federal styles) and the popularization of the style with the publication of carpenter's pattern books that presented plans and detailing. Since the Altaville Schoolhouse presents the typical aspects of domestic versions of the Greek Revival style with simple rectangular block, pediment suggested by cornice returns and frieze but does not display any Greek Revival detailing, it suggests that a local builder was able to translate the major characteristics of the plan, pediment, cornice and frieze but relied on his vernacular knowledge of brickwork when dealing with details such as door and window frames. Therefore, the Altaville Schoolhouse is representative of the process by which an architectural style is introduced and subsequently translated into a local context.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Buckbee, Edna Bryan. "Pioneer Days of Angels Camp," Calaveras Californian, Angels Camp, 1932, (p. 51).

Kirker, Harold. Architectural Frontier. Style and Tradition in the Nineteenth Century, Peregrine Smith, Inc., 1973, p. 41.

Leonard, Edward C. Establishment and Growth of School Systems in Calaveras County, California. (Calaveras County Historical Society Library).

Weston, Otheto. Mother Lode Album, Stanford University Press, 1948 (p. 92).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .084 acres (3,648 sq. ft.)

QUADRANGLE NAME Angels Camp, California QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	1,0	7,1,3,9,2,0	4,2,1,7,6,2,0	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Nominated property occupies .084 acres of land adjacent to Highway 49 in Altaville, California. * Beginning at a point which bears N. 75° 03' E., 758.31 feet from the East one quarter corner of Section 29, T. 3 N., R. 13 E., M.D.M.; thence S. 52° 34' W., 334.75 feet; thence S. 33° 40' W; 458 feet,

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

Office of Historic Preservation
staff revision: Carol Branan

NAME / TITLE
Bessie McGinnis, Harry Townsend and Robert Yohr

ORGANIZATION
Calaveras County Historical Society

DATE
1/5/79

STREET & NUMBER
1251 Gold Cliff Road, Box 542

TELEPHONE
(209) 736-2189

CITY OR TOWN
Angels Camp, California 95222

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Knox Mellon

TITLE

DATE JUN 1 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

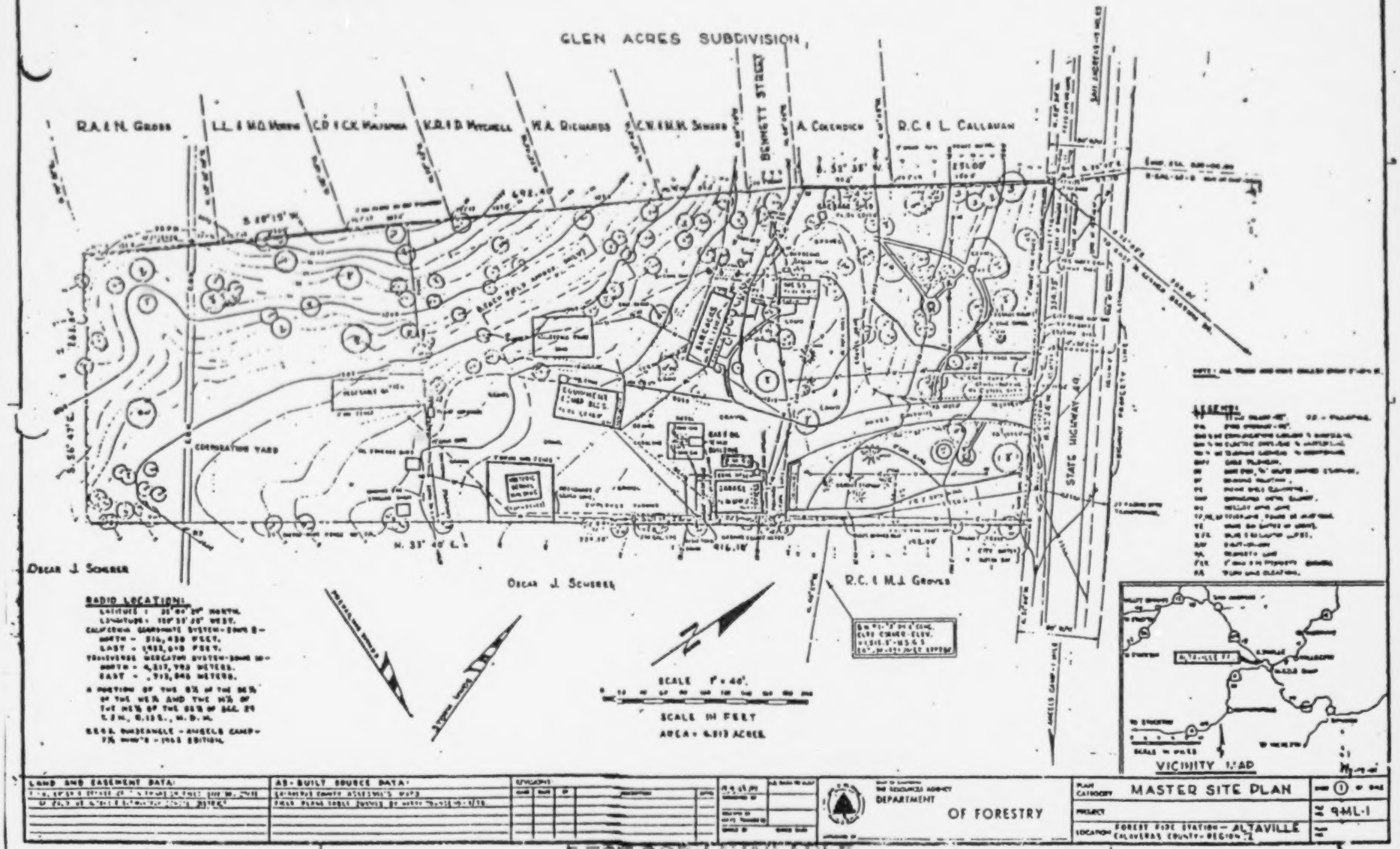
DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

Sketch map which shows the boundary line of the property being nominated outlined in red pencil which traces the semi-rectangular fence line of the property; the extended single red line is for reference purposes to identify the property in relationship to Dept. of Forestry holdings

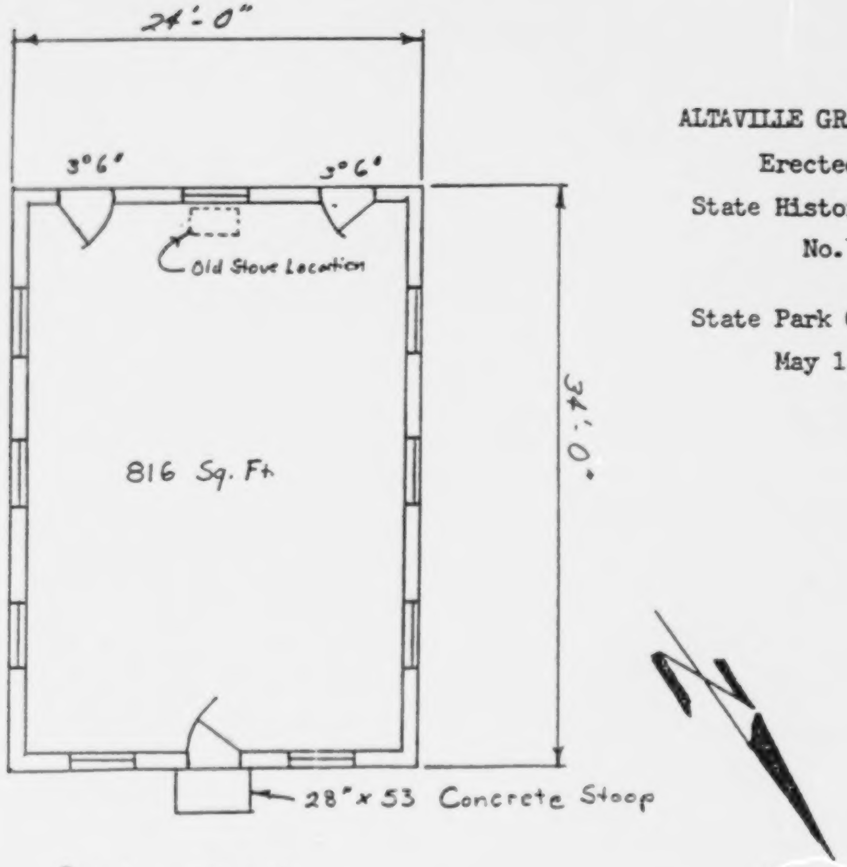
ALTAVILLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

MAP 1 of 2
March 1979



ALTAVILLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Erected 1858
State Historical Landmark
No. 499

State Park Commission
May 1, 1955



Scale: 1"=10'

Outside Wall - Double row of bricks, trim above windows and doors.
Inside Wall - Plaster board with vertical board wainscot 38" high.
Windows - Nine each casement approximately 44" x 72" high.
Floor - Wood Board, about 16" above ground elevation.
Ceiling - Wood board, about 12 feet above floor.
Roof - 6:12 Pitch, wood shingle covered with galvanized steel.

This sketch map does not include the entire boundary line; it is only a sketch of the school building. For a sketch map of the entire property see Department of Forestry's sketch map.

Harry Townsend - 11/7/78
Assistant Civic Engineer
State Dept. of Forestry

RECEIVED
[illegible]
OHP

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CALIFORNIA
STATE

Date Entered AUG 24 1979

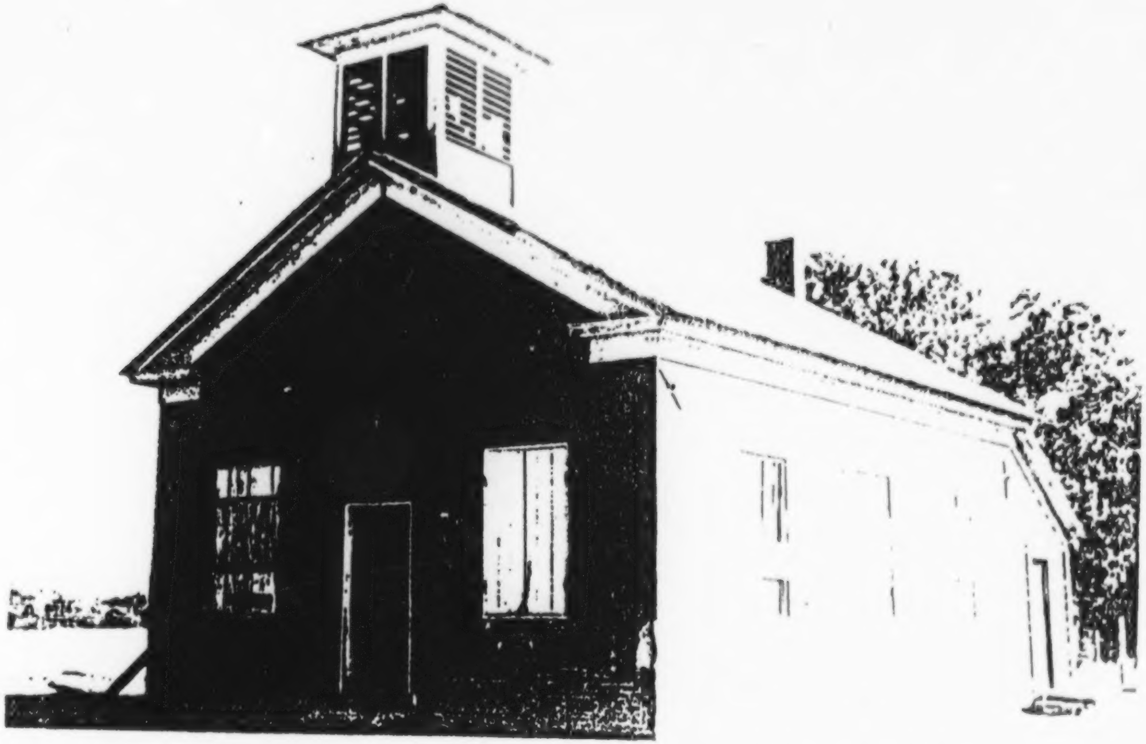
Name	Location
La Grange Multiple Resource Area	La Grange Stanislaus County
✓ Altaville Grammar School	Altaville Calaveras County
Bank of Los Banos Building	Los Banos Merced County
Nichelini Winery	St. Helena vicinity Napa County
Watson Log Cabin	Tahoe City Placer County

Also Notified

Honorable Alan Cranston
Honorable S. I. Hayakawa
Honorable Norman D. Shumway
Honorable Tom Coelho
Honorable Don H. Clausen
Honorable Harold T. Johnson

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.



108

109

SURVEY
of
California Registered Historical Landmarks

Name RED BRICK GRAMMAR SCHOOL Number 499

County Calaveras

Location State Department of Forestry Station, 125 North Main Street, Altaville

Type of Plaque MARKER PLACED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE PARK COMMISSION IN COOPERATION WITH PRINCESS PARLOR No. 84, NATIVE DAUGHTERS OF THE GOLDEN WEST, MAY 1, 1955.

Condition of Plaque Excellent - Looks New

Condition of Base Excellent

Condition of Surroundings Excellent

Wording on Plaque ALTAVILLE GRAMMER SCHOOL

THIS BRICK BUILDING, ERECTED IN 1858 WITH FUNDS RAISED BY A DANCE IN THE BILLIARD SALOON OF THE N.R. PRINCE BUILDING (WHICH STILL STANDS), IS ONE OF THE OLDEST SCHOOLS OF CALIFORNIA. USED AS A SCHOOL UNTIL 1950, IT WAS THEN REPLACED BY THE PRESENT MARK TWAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN ALTAVILLE.

Are there Highway Directional Signs? Yes

If so, where? 500 feet each side of site

Remarks: Plaque on State Forestry Property.

Submitted by J. Arbuckle Date 9/20/80

HISTORICAL LANDMARK DATA
DISTRICT 3
Division of Beaches and Parks

Name Red Brick Grammer School Number 499

County Calaveras

Location Altaville.
Off the highway on the grounds of the California Division of Forestry Station at Altaville.

Type of Plaque Bronze

Condition of Plaque Good

" " Plaque Base Good

" " Surroundings Good

Wording on Plaque Altaville Grammer School.
This brick building, erected in 1858 with funds raised by a dance in the Billiard Saloon of the N.R. Prince Building (which still stands) is one of the oldest schools of California. Used as a school until 1950. It was then replaced by the present Mark Twain Elementary School, in Altaville. Historical Landmark No. 499.
Marker placed California State Park Commission in cooperation with

Are there Highway Directional Markers? Yes

If so, Where? 500 yards each side of monument.

Remarks Princess Parlor No. 84, NDGW. May 1, 1955

Photos taken Yes Time of Day 11:00 AM Date 5-22-59

Submitted by W D White on Date 5-22-59

NAME RED BRICK GRAMMAR SCHOOL - ALTAVILLE

COUNTY CALAVERAS

APPROVAL COMMITTEE:-

Aubrey Drury

Carl I. Wheat

[illegible]

John Caughey

J. R. Knowland

J. R. Knowland

STATE PARK COMMISSION

Warren T. Hannum

DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

REGISTERED LANDMARK NUMBER 499

DATE Dec. 4, 1951

Oakland Tribune
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER

May 8,1951.

Mr. J. E. Carpenter,
California State Chamber of Commerce,
San Francisco,California.

My dear Jerry:

The enclosed application for the registration of the red brick grammar school at Altaville,California, was for some reason sent to me. I think it is O.K., as it is one of the typical old early mining town school houses. It was built way back in May,1858,so it comes in as one of the early landmarks. It certainly seems to be one of the typical old red school houses, of which we hear so much. The only other one I know of is up in Columbia,and that is being preserved. This is evidence of the fact that the miners were quick to see the advantages of school houses,as well as churches.

Sincerely yours,

J. R. Knowland

J.R.Knowland

Mess.J.N.
Connolly
Aubrey Drury
Carl Wheat
DeWitt Hutchins
John Caughey
Newton Drury, Chief, Division Beaches and Parks

350 Bush St., San Francisco 4, Cal.
May 9, 1951.

Mr. Joseph R. Knowland, Publisher,
Oakland Tribune,
Tribune Tower,
Oakland, Cal.

Dear Mr. Knowland:

Your letter of May 8 enclosing application for the registration of the red brick grammar school at Altaville, California, and your favorable comments has been received.

In this connection there is something which the Approval Committee should consider, and also the Governor's Committee when appointed and functioning. The town of Altaville is already duly registered as historic landmark No. 288. In the write-up for this registration the red schoolhouse is duly mentioned, along with other features which warranted its registration. A separate registration may be confusing - that is the registration of each of the historical features in each of these towns. This is the principle which we had followed in the case of the registration of Auburn, and which we are trying to follow on all new applications. In this instance the town of Auburn was registered and the various points of historical interest in the town were enumerated as part of that registration. In the case of the red schoolhouse, should this not come under the Altaville registration and by this means become eligible for a plaque, if they so apply.

Shall appreciate your comments and advice before proceeding with the usual routine.

Sincerely,

J. [illegible] Carpenter, Director
Travel and Recreation Department
HISTORIC LANDMARKS

Copy to all members of the
HISTORIC LANDMARKS APPROVAL COMMITTEE.
Division of Beaches and Parks,
Sacramento

✓ Mr. Knowland
Extra copy to Col. Lyng

350 Bush St., San Francisco 4, Cal.
October 10, 1951.

Col. L. V. Lyng, Secy.,
Calaveras County Chamber of Commerce,
Altaville, Cal.

Dear Col. Lyng:

Thanks for your recent letter. I, too, was sorry that we could not have gotten together for a few minutes. We shall again look to you for the snow reports as usual. If there is any way we can assist from this end in working out any plan you have in mind, please call on us.

And now for a little job on Historic Landmarks. Attached you will find our file for registration of the little brick schoolhouse at Altaville. Somehow, it got in our files and has remained dormant. You will also find attached, the registration of the town of Altaville which includes the schoolhouse. In my letter to Mr. Knowland I pointed out the plan which we have been following - that is, instead of registering the individual buildings or historic sites in the case of a town, the town itself should be registered with adequate mention of the points of historic interest which it contains. This has been done in the case of Altaville, and therefore appears to be sufficient. As the case in point is the securing of a plaque to be affixed to the schoolhouse, it appears to me that it is eligible without further registration.

The next step is to apply for such a plaque directly to Mr. Jos. R. Knowland, Chairman, State Park Commission, Tribune Tower, Oakland. I would suggest that the wording be carefully worked out and submitted at the time you make application. Also, send him the attached so that he will have the complete story. Please let me know how you are proceding.

Sincerely,

J. E. Carpenter, Director
Travel and Recreation Department
HISTORIC LANDMARKS

CALAVERAS COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
A County-Wide Institution

SAN ANDREAS, CALIFORNIA

October 19, 1951.

Mr. J. E. Carpenter,
Travel and Recreation Dept.,
California Chamber of Commerce,
350 Bush Street,
San Francisco 4, California.

Dear Jerry:

I am in receipt of your letter of October 10 which returned to me the papers and application for a historic landmark for the Red School House at Altaville.

During the past few years, I have conducted all my historic landmark business through Joseph R. Knowland, Chairman of the California Centennials Commission. Since the closing of the Centennials Commission offices and based on correspondence with Mr. Knowland, I have continued this activity through him.

The deal on the School House at Altaville is as follows:

> The School House proper is located at least one mile from the town of Altaville where the landmark site of No. 288 has been allocated for easement from the State Highway Department. The Red School House is on property owned by the State of California, for use by the State Forestry Service as is evidenced in papers included in the application for the creation of a landmark. The sponsors of this landmark and the Division of Forestry are both anxious to have this building designated as a landmark as the State Forestry Service is planing on preserving the structure.

I am returning the copies of the application to you with the request that the necessary steps be taken to have this school created as a historical landmark. I would appreciate anything you can do for me.

Very sincerely yours,

L. V. LYNG, SEC-MGR.

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF HISTORICAL POINT OF INTEREST

NAME OF HISTORICAL POINT Grammar School - red brick (1858)

LOCATION Altaville, California

NAME OF OWNER State Division of Forestry

STREET

CITY Sacramento 10, California

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

Altaville in 1850 was called the "Forks of the Road" but in 1857 a group got together and decided to name the camp "Winterton" after Bill Winters - however, one month later in December 1857 the name was changed to Altaville.

In 1858 Thomas Frazier generously donated the land for the red-brick school. In May 1858 a ball was held in the upstairs "Billiard Saloon" of the H.R. Prince building (which is still standing) to raise funds for building the school. The 25 x 18 foot re-brick schoolhouse was completed in October 1858.

The San Andreas Independent of October 9, 1858 referred to the school house as follows, "A commodious brick school house is in course of construction in Altaville."

The wood frame anterooms on the rear were added to the brick building about the middle 1870's, as per a letter from D.C.Demarest, Berkeley California who attended the school from 1872 until 1881.

The bulge in the side walls had developed before 1872. During the period of Mr. D.C. Demarest's attendance these walls were reinforced with wrought iron through-rods, holding cast iron plate washers against the outer faces of both walls - these were furnished by Mr. Demarest's father's iron works in Altaville.

STATEMENT OF PROPERTY OWNER

AUTHORIZING THE NUMBERING AND REGISTRATION OF HISTORICAL POINT OF INTEREST

WARREN T. HANNUM
Director of
Natural Resources

EARL WARREN
Governor

De WITT NELSON
State Forester

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY
SACRAMENTO 14

Address Reply to STATE FORESTER
Refer to Number A/2/14

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Mrs. Agnes Woods, Chairman
History and Landmarks
N. D. G. W.,
Box 211
Angels Camp, Calif.

Dear Mrs. Woods:

Reference is made to your letter of February 5 and telephone conversation of this date.

We, too, should like a bronze plaque on the old Altaville school and will do everything possible to cooperate with the Chapter of the Native Daughters in this regard. As you know, it is our plan to preserve the schoolhouse.

I presume you would want some form of dedicatory services with the plaque's unveiling. If this is your plan, I would suggest it be dedicated the summer after we have finished our construction on the site.

I understand you are arranging with the State Chamber of Commerce to secure a bronze plaque and that you will compile the data to go on the plaque.

If this office can be of any further assistance to you in this matter, please let me know.

Yours very truly,

De Witt Nelson

DeWitt Nelson, State Forester

REFERENCES TO BOOKS, RECORDS, AND OTHER AUTHORITIES SUSTAINING THESE FACTS

1. Historical Data of Registered Historical Landmarks of California. # 288 - Altaville February 4, 1938.
2. Mother Lode Album
   By: Otheto Weston - Page 92
3. Pioneer Days of Angels Camp
   By: Edna Bryan Buckbee - Page 51
4. A bulletin published by the Department of Natural Resources, State of California at Sacramento.
5. Verbal confirmation by a few remaining descendant's of the early settlers.

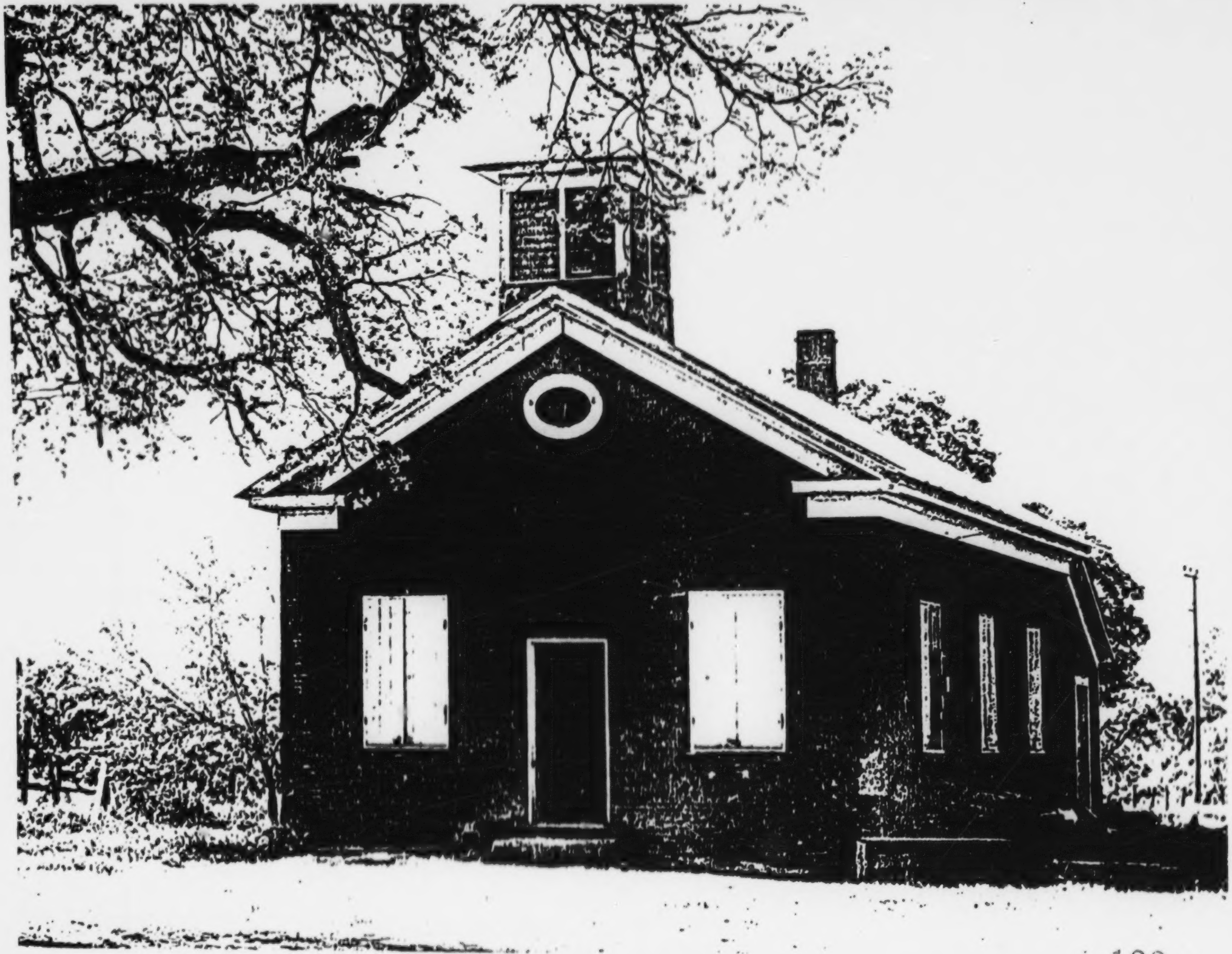
ARE PICTURES ATTACHED? Yes

IS STATEMENT OF OWNER ATTACHED? Yes

Signed Clia Beltramo Rec. Sec.
Princess Parlor N.D.G.W. No. 84

City Angels Camp, California

Date April 11 1957



121

122

#499

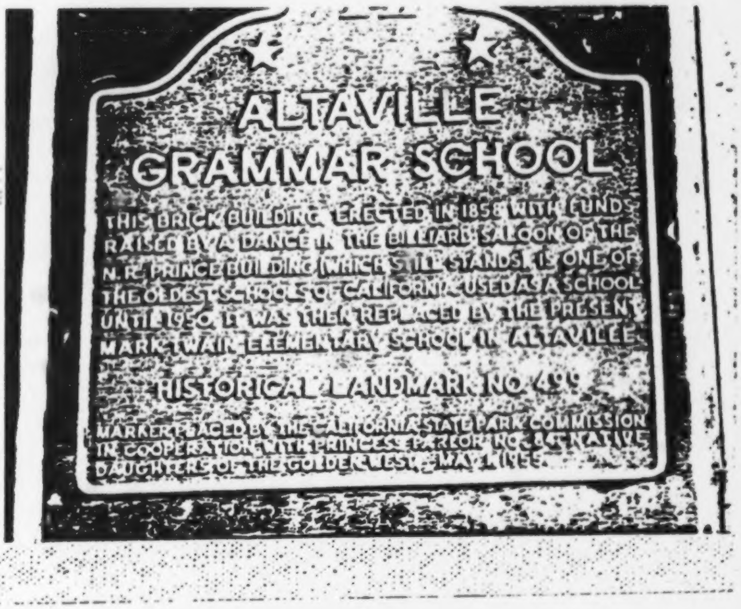
The Sacramento Bee
March 14, 1955

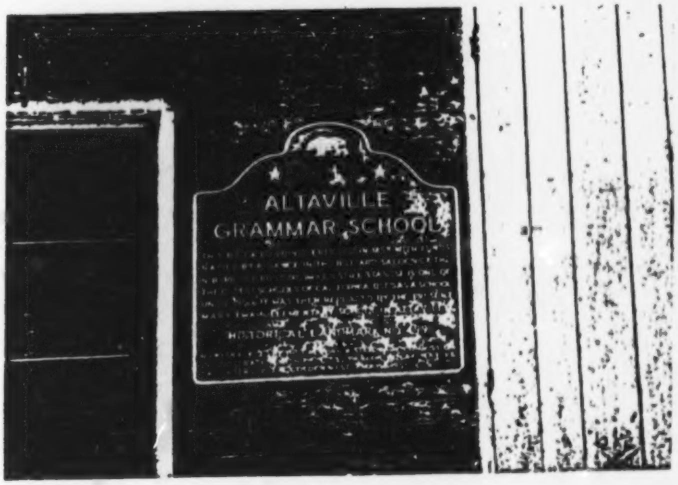
NDGW Will Mark Altaville School As Historical Site

ANGELS CAMP, Calaveras Co.—The Princess Parlor, Native Daughters of the Golden West, plan to place a bronze plaque on Altaville Grammar School as a marker for a historical site.

May 1st has been set tentatively for the ceremony.

Mrs. Elbert McCoy, chairman of history and landmarks, has made the preliminary arrangements for the marking of the school which was built in 1858 and used until 1950, when it was replaced by the Mark Twain Union Elementary School. Mrs. John Lemue, who attended the school when she was in the primary grades, and Mrs. Maude Lee were appointed to the committee to assist Mrs. McCoy with the final arrangements.


ALTAVILLE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
THIS BRICK BUILDING, ERECTED IN 1858 WITH FUNDS
RAISED BY A DANCE IN THE BILLIARD SALOON OF THE
N.R. PRINCE BUILDING (WHICH STILL STANDS), IS ONE OF
THE OLDEST SCHOOLS OF CALIFORNIA. USED AS A SCHOOL
UNTIL 1950, IT WAS THEN REPLACED BY THE PRESENT
MARK TWAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN ALTAVILLE.
HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO. 499
MARKER PLACED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE PARK COMMISSION
IN COOPERATION WITH PRINCESS PARLOR NO. 84, NATIVE
DAUGHTERS OF THE GOLDEN WEST, MAY 1, 1955


ALTAVILLE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

73.10
8

LOCATION OF HISTORIC OLD SCHOOLHOUSE SITE.

This historic old schoolhouse is located on property owned by the State of California, Department of Forestry, in the town of Altaville, Calaveras County, California. It is in the Northeast one-quarter (¼) of the Southeast one-quarter (¼) of Section 29, Township 3 North, Range 13 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian. The following description describes that fenced area within the property owned by the Department of Forestry:

> Begining at a point which bears N.75° 03' E., 758.31 feet from the East one-quarter (¼) corner of Section 29, T.3 N., R. 13 E., M.D.M.; thence S.52° 34' W., 334.75 feet; thence S. 33° 40' W., 458 feet, more or less, to the true Point of Begining; thence Northerly 55 feet, more or less; thence Westerly 64 feet, more or less; thence Southerly 58 feet, more or less; thence Easterly 64 feet, more or less, to the Point of Begining, and containing 3,648 square feet, more or less (0.084± Acres).

The entire area is fenced off from adjacent land, owned by the Department of Forestry on the east, north and west, anf by Oscar J. Scheres on the south.

11-8-78-H.T.

State of California – The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY

Ser. No. 5221-14
HABS ____ HAER ____ NR 1 8/28/77 SHL X Loc X
UTM: A ____ B ____
C ____ D ____

HRI ANGELS CAMP 7.5' QUAD

IDENTIFICATION

1. Common name: THE OLD ALTAVILLE SCHOOL
2. Historic name: ALTAVILLE GRAMMER SCHOOL - HISTORICAL LANDMARK # 499
3. Street or rural address: 125 North Main Street
City Altaville, California Zip 95221 County Calaveras
4. Parcel number: 125 N. Main St. Section 29 Township 3 Range 13 E
5. Present Owner: State of California - Dept. of Forestry Address: 1416 - 9th Street
City Sacramento, California Zip 95814 Ownership is: Public X Private ____
6. Present Use: Un-occupied Original use: Educational

DESCRIPTION

7a. Architectural style: Greek Influence

7b. Briefly describe the present *physical description* of the site or structure and describe any major alterations from its original condition: The Old Altaville Grammer School is the only one room brick school building remaining in the Mother Lode area of California. Altaville is now part of Angels Camp, an incorperated town whose population is about 3,000. Both Altaville and Angels Camp had their beginnings in the Gold Rush Days and the population was [illegible] in the past than at the present time. Tourism is an impotrant industry in this historic area as it is sixty miles from Stockton, seventy miles from Sacramento, a little over one hundred miles from the San Francisco Bay area.

The Altaville School was built in 1858 with funds raised at a dance in the Billiard Saloon ofe the N.R. Prince Building in Altaville. At the present time the State of California owns the property on which the school stands. There are no other property owners adjacent to the school.

The building which measures 24"x34" has an area of 816 square feet. The school area is 0.034 acres. The building is constructed of red brick that was kilned in the area. It has white wood trim on the gable and the sides under the roof line. The roof slants two ways, forming a 90 degree angle at the gable, front and rear. The walls are two bricks wide. There is a door in the center front of the building with a window on each side of the door. There is a small round window in the gable above the door. (continued on the reverse side)

Attach Photo(s) Here

PHOTOS CONTAINED IN ENVELOPE

8. Construction date:
Estimated ____ Factual 1
9. Architect UNKNOWN
10. Builder Residents of the area
11. Approx. property size (in feet)
Frontage 24" Depth 34"
or approx. acreage 0.034
12. Date(s) of enclosed photograph(s)
11/78 *

* Further deterioration has occurred since photos.

Bricks above the door and windows are placed in vertical position, commonly spoken of as "eyebrow" detail. The roof line suggests Greek influence as the cornices have white trim extending to the front of the building, that add architectural interest.

There are three windows on each side of the building, with one window and two doors at the reat. A "lean-to" of wood lumber that was added to the rear of the building to serve as a cloak and storage room was removed in 1975. A brick chimney is at the center rear of the building. The windows are all boarded up at present.

The interior of the building has wood wainscotting on the lower three feet of the walls. A plaster board material was installed on the upper walls in the early 1900's. Blackboards covered sections of the walls. The ceiling is about twelve feet high, with the floor about sixteen inches above the ground. Floor boards are placed lengthwise of the room. Electric lights were installed sometime in the 1900's. Oil lamps were used originally. The shingle roof of the structure was covered with galvanized roofing years ago. The belfry has a four sided shingle roof and the louvered sides protect the bell that called children to school for nearly one hundred years.

The building is in fair condition but is in need of immediate repair. The bricks at one rear corner of the building have become dislodged and have fallen to the ground. The building is in the National Register and is worth saving. However funds are needed to refurlish this peice of our heritage.

Condition: Excellent ____ Good ____ Fair ____ Deteriorated X No longer in existence ____

14. Alterations: See present physical description on page one.

Surroundings: (Check more than one if necessary) Open land X Scattered buildings X Densely built-up ____
Residential ____ Industrial ____ Commercial ____ Other: Building located on C.D.F. property at Altaville FFS station.

16. Threats to site: None known ____ Private development ____ Zoning ____ Vandalism ____
Public Works project ____ Other: Weather

17. Is the structure: On its original site? Yes Moved? ____ Unknown? ____

18. Related features: ____

SIGNIFICANCE

19. Briefly state historical and/or architectural importance (include dates, events, and persons associated with the site.)

The Altaville School is worthy of preservation because it is the only one room brick school building remaining in the Mother Lode area of California. It was built in 1858 in what was then an important gold mining town, and it was used as a school for all eight grades, with as many as sixty children instructed by one teacher, then as a room for upper grades for almost one hundred years, until 1950 when it was replaced by the Mark Twain Elementary School.

The Altaville School is a good example of the importance the early residents placed on education of their children. It was well built, attractive, and served as a center of community life for many generations. We feel it should be restored for it is a historic building and a reminder of our American heritage. It is truly "A little red school house", and it should be preserved for future generations.

The bronze plaque that was placed on the building by the State Park Commission in cooperation with the Native Daughters of the Golden West, Princess Parlor No. 84, on May 1, 1955, states: "Brick building built in 1858 with funds raised at a dance given in the Billiard Saloon in the N.R. Prince Building (which still stands). One of the oldest schools in California, used as a school until it was replaced in 1950 by the Mark Twain Elementary School". Landmark No. 499. (over)

20. Main theme of the historic resource: (If more than one is checked, number in order of importance.)

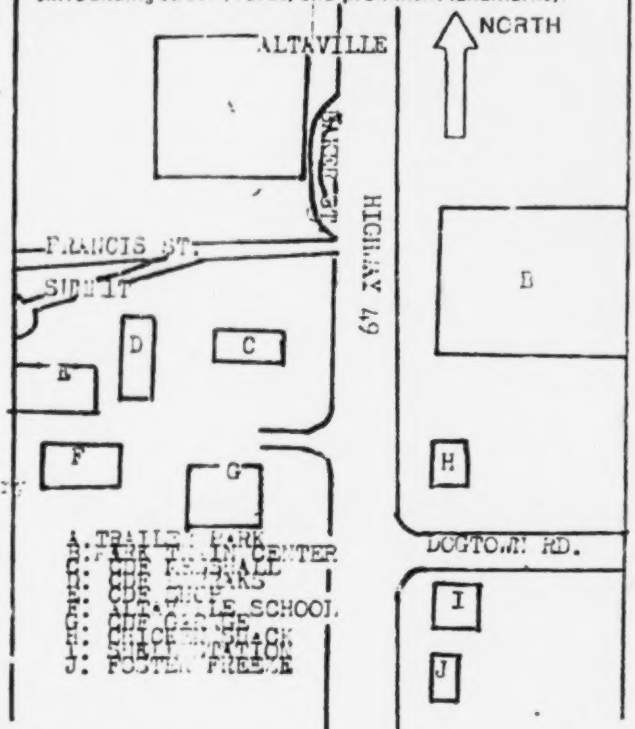
Architecture	2	Arts & Leisure	
Economic/Industrial		Exploration/Settlement	
Government		Military	
Religion		Social/Education	1

21. Sources (List books, documents, surveys, personal interviews and their dates).

1. Establishment and Growth of School Systems in Calaveras County California.
   By - Edward G. Leonard
2. Calaveras The Land of Skulls
   By - Coke Wood - 1955

22. Date form prepared 1/15/81
By (name) James R. McGee - Fire Captain
Organization California Department of Forestry
Address: P.O. Box 1[illegible]2
City Altaville, California Zip 95221
Phone: (209) 736-2037

Locational sketch map (draw and label site and surrounding streets, roads, and prominent landmarks):



COKE WOOD — AUTHOR

CALAVERAS THE LAND OF SKULLS

1955

MOTHER LODE PRESS SONORA

CHAPTER VIII

SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS

Although the rush to California in 'forty-nine and 'fifty was made up very largely of single men, it was not long until wives and families were coming to join the husbands and fathers. But even before the state had many school-age youngsters, the first State legislature made provisions for an educational system. The sixteenth and thirty-sixth sections of land in each township had been set aside by the federal government for the promotion of public schools, and for a university two whole townships were granted. Added to this was a 500,000 acre grant by the federal government for internal improvement.[1] The first State Superintendent of Public Instruction was John G. Marvin, who estimated in his report of February 13, 1855, that the value of the school land in California was about $8,000,000. An effort was made to use this school land for a general fund sacred to the public schools, but it was opposed by Senator Wm. Gwin and General H. W. Halleck. As a result of the sale of school lands, about 50,000 acres of land were lost before safety measures were established.[2]

Superintendent Marvin in his report on schools in 1852 recommended: (1) that a five cent tax be levied on each one hundred dollars worth of property for the aid of schools; (2) that the office of County Superintendent be created; and that proceeds from swamp and overflow land be applied to the school. The report also stated that Calaveras County had one hundred children of school age but no public schools.

The first free school in the state was organized in 1850 in San Francisco. The system of public schools was rather slow in developing and many of the early schools were private schools, supported by a religious denomination. As late as 1857, State Superintendent Paul K. Hubbs reported that there was no such thing as a public school in the state and that rate bills and other expenses excluded many from the schools. He urged a greater state appropriation. The legislature followed his advice in 1858 and also authorized the school districts to levy a special tax on all property, so that the schools would be open to all on a free basis. However, as late as 1862 the public school at Mokelumne Hill was charging one dollar and fifty cents per month for all children attending the school.

However, the school system of the state was being gradually improved. Under the original act setting aside public land for the benefit of schools, only three months of school each year was required for any assistance from the public land revenue. In 1858, A. J. Moulder, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, recommended to the legislature that all school districts be required to hold school for a period of six months each year.[3]

Another advance in the Public school system was made in 1863 when a new law provided for the election of trustees for school districts to serve for a period of three years and authorized the issuance of teacher certificates.[4] Before this law was passed teachers were appointed by the County Superintendent on the recommendation of the local residents. Also, some uniformity in the use of textbooks was being developed. In 1855 Superintendent Hubbs recommended that uniform series of textbooks be used. Every school, and sometimes every pupil, had his own textbooks.

By the middle of the 'sixties the confused conditions in the school system of the state were being eliminated and higher standards were being demanded in the schools.

Naturally enough the first schools in Calaveras County were private schools, supported by tuition from the parents. It is impossible to tell just when the first public schools were established because there are no county records on the matter before May 7, 1855, the date of the first meeting of the Board of Supervisors. At that time we know from the minutes of the Board that public schools had been established in San Andreas, Mokelumne Hill, Angels Camp, Murphys and Cave City. However, the little camp of Ft. John in what is now Amador County was probably the first camp to have a school as well as a church in 1850.[5] In 1852 a school was organized in Mokelumne Hill in the tent used by the Methodist Church. The teacher was Mrs. Isaac Fish, wife of the minister. She received seventy-five dollars a month for daily sessions of three hours. The school numbered five pupils—two white children and three negroes.[6]

The Methodist Church was also the location of the first school in Jackson. It was taught by Mrs. Trowbridge, one of the few women in the camp before 1850.[7]

In 1852, State Superintendent Marvin's report stated there were twenty public schools in the state and as yet none in Calaveras County. Private schools were being established which were turned into public schools between 1853 and 1855. Murphys had private schools taught by a Miss Powers and also one taught by a Miss Vichers before 1855. These were probably primary grades. A Mr. Jaquith taught in the first school building in Murphys before 1855. He was the first teacher in the public school.[8] The Methodist Church, built in 1853, may have been used as a school, also. When funds for its construction were being planned, it was stated the building would be used for church, education, and town meetings.[9]

Schools, probably private, had been established in Volcano, Jackson, Sutter Creek, and Ione in 1853.[10]

James Gould moved to Lancha Plana on the Mokelumne River in 1853 and set up a private school for the ten or twelve children in the camp.[11]

Many miners were bringing their families to California, and State Superintendent Hubbs reported the number of school children in the state had increased from 2,000 in 1853 to 6,751 in 1854. It was probably in this year that the public schools were organized in San Andreas, Mokelumne Hill, Angels Camp, Murphys and Cave City. The minutes of the Board of Supervisors give us accurate dates of the formation of public school districts after 1855 and the following is a list of the first of these that were formed:

Vallecito	Nov. 17, 1855.
District No. 2 of Township No. 6, embracing Pleasant Springs, Rich Gulch, Rich Gulch Flat, Cedar Gulch, Mosquito Gulch, and Glencoe	Nov. 17, 1855.
Douglas Flat	Feb. 11, 1856
District No. 3, Township No. 6, Middle Bar to Bay State Ranch	Dec. 20, 1856
West Point	Dec. 29, 1856.
District No. 4, Township No. 6, Bay State Ranch and Chili Gulch	Feb. 19, 1857.
Upper Calaveritas. Lower Calaveritas, Foreman's Ranch, Old Gulch, French Gulch, San Antone, Indian Creek	May 15, 1858.
Negro Gulch (Jesus Maria)	Aug. 16, 1858.

In June, 1859, the following twelve school districts were named by the Board of Supervisors: San Andreas, Mokelumne Hill, Pleasant Springs, Chili Gulch, Golden Gate, Cave City, West Point, Angels, Murphys, Vallecito, Douglas Flat, Negro Gulch, and Upper Calaveritas.

By June 12, 1871, there were the following twenty-six school districts: Paloma, Campo Seco, Comanche, Salt Spring Valley, Copperopolis, Vallecito, Douglas Flat, Telegraph City, Pleasant Springs, Mosquito Gulch, West Point, Brushville, Black Hills, Murphys, Altaville, San Andreas, Petersburg, Fourth Crossing, Spring Valley, Washington Ranch, Chili Gulch, Railroad Flat, Negro Gulch, Cave City, Sheepranch and Upper Calaveritas.

The school districts were eventually increased until there were fifty-seven, but with the decrease of mining activity and loss of population, plus unionization of a few schools, the number of school district are now twenty-four. There have been unionizations of districts of West Point, El Dorado and Angels. Lincoln joined West Point in 1930. Banner and Cave City joined to form Ed Dorado Union in 1946, and Carson and Melones joined Angels in 1948 to form the Mother Lode Union. Altaville has now joined with Angels Camp in building a fine new school building. Many of the schools, however, were small one-room school buildings and when the population migrated, such as at Washington Flat, Peppermint, Big Trees, Petersburg, Williams, and others, the schools closed and the district was absorbed by an adjoining district. This occurred to the Union School District which was annexed to Mokelumne Hill in 1870.

The two high school districts, Bret Harte at Angels and Calaveras at San Andreas, were organized in 1905. In 1924 two years of high school work was provided at West Point but this functioned only as a part of the elementary district.

Apparently the first County Superintendent of Schools was R. Thompson as there is no record of any reports on schools by a superintendent before this time. Up until 1855 the assessor had been acting as County Superintendent of Schools.[12] State Superintendent Marvin had recommended in 1852 that the County Assessor be made ex-officio County Superintendent.

The following report of Superintendent Thompson, published in the San Andreas, *Independent*, November 26, 1859, gives a rather complete picture of the schools:

SAN ANDREAS—Scholars between 4 and 18 years of age, 232. Teacher, Mr. Joseph Holden, Trustees: J. Benjamin, J. Sullivan, N. B. Jenks.

CAMPO SECO—Scholars between 4 and 18 years of age,

136. Teacher, Mrs. Maria Hill. Trustees: J. B. McGilvery, J. Gabbert, Wm. O. Gray.

UPPER CALAVERITAS—Scholars between 4 and 18 years of age, 108. Teacher, Mr. D. K. Swim, Trustees, J. W. Sharp, E. R. Purple, Moses Thorp.

MOKELUMNE HILL—Scholars between 4 and 18 years of age, 147. Teachers, John H. Allen and Wm. J. Dakin. Trustees: J. C. Gebbhart, A. P. Dudley, James Hepburn.

PLEASANT SPRINGS—Scholars between 4 and 18 years of age, 51. Teacher, Miss Selina Griswold. Trustees: A. H. Hoerschner, George Warner, Capt. Duming.

CHILI GULCH—Scholars between 4 and 18 years of age, 52. Teacher, Mrs. Hester A. Morse. Trustees: Mr. N. Beals, Mr. Cassil, Mr. L. R. Morse.

GOLDEN GATE—Scholars between 4 and 18 years of age, 29. Teacher, Miss Faulks. Trustees: L. M. Schrank, J. Dickerson, A. R. Young.

CAVE CITY—Scholars between 4 and 18 years of age, 22. Teacher, M. M. Griffith. Trustees: Geo. K. Johnson, W. C. Bean, H. Howes.

WEST POINT—Scholars between 4 and 18 years of age, 56. Teachers, M. M. Collier and Miss L. J. Hope. Trustees: S. G. Briggs, A. M. Hope.

ANGELS—Scholars between 4 and 18 years of age, 140. Teacher, W. W. Durham. Trustees: Wm. Coddington, F. Maxon, J. C. Scribner.

ALTAVILLE—Scholars between 4 and 18 years of age, 92. Teachers, Miss M. J. Clayes and W. W. Durham. Trustees: J. Ward, A. Gardner, C. S. Rieves.

MURPHYS—Scholars between the ages of 4 and 18 years, 124. Teachers, L. W. Keys and Miss Mary A. Kelly. Trustees: Wm. Jones, Volney Shearer, R. Senter.

VALLECITO—Scholars between 4 and 18 years of age, 90. Teachers, M. Holmes and T. W. Brotherton. Trustees: A. Taylor, J. Booth, M. W. Hall.

Two years later Superintendent Thompson gives another report on the conditions of the schools in Calaveras County which was published in the *Calaveras Chronicle*, November 11, 1861. It is worth quoting as he takes pride in pointing out the advancement made in the public school system.

> No District in the County that has drawn public funds for the last year has had school for a less period than four months during the year, and the average of the districts is over seven months; that is, the children

on an average in the 13 Districts from which I received reports have had the privilege of attending school for over seven months of the last school year. This is nearly a month more than last year.

The total number of children entitled to draw public money the coming year is 1822; last year, 1600. They are divided as follows:

San Andreas, 346; Campo Seco, 111; Upper Calaveritas, 127; Mokelumne Hill, 220; Pleasant Springs, 66; Chili Gulch, 109; West Point, 78; Angels, 152; Altaville, 217; Murphys, 177; Vallecito, 70; Brushville, 93; Comanche, 56; Total, 1822.

The census returns from Cave City shows that they have 48 school children for which they would have been entitled to draw, if the teachers had made a report. This makes the second year that the Cave City District has lost its share of the school fund, through the neglect of its teachers.

The total amount spent for school purposes during the school year is a little over $13,000.00. About one-half this amount was raised by rates and private subscription, one quarter from the State fund. This includes $4,000.00 expended at Murphys for a school house.

The amount raised by different districts by rates and private subscription, are as follows:

San Andreas, $480; Campo Seco, $268; Upper Calaveritas, $232; Mokelumne Hill, $533; Pleasant Springs, $420; Chili Gulch, $167; West Point, $750; Angels, $663; Altaville, $125; Murphys, $3100; Vallecito, $267; Brushville, $150; Comanche, $300; Total, $7455.

As some future time I will give through your paper a short history of each school in the County.

R. Thompson, County Supt. of
Common Schools.

W. C. Mosher was County Superintendent in 1866 and his report published in the *Calaveras Chronicle*, March 17, 1866, stated that the amount expended on public schools between 1852 and 1865 had amounted to $96,041. The total school attendance for the past year had been 1275 with an average daily attendance of 694 in twenty-two schools. The total expenditures had been $15,878, and $10,752 of this amount had been for teachers' salaries.

The school enrollment had almost doubled in 1870 and six new school districts had been added. County Superintendent Wells reports that there were 2151 pupils in attendance in the following schools:

> Angels, 145; Altaville, 107; Brushville, 78; Carson Hill, 39; Campo Seco, 90; Cave City, 47; Comanche, 100; Chili Gulch, 66; Copperopolis, 142; Douglas Flat, 44; Eureka, 57; Fourth Crossing, 75; Mosquito Gulch, 19; Murphys, 172; Mokelumne Hill, 196; Negro Gulch, 48; Petersburg, 84; Pleasant Springs, 16; Paloma, 47; San Andreas, 159; Spring Valley, 35; Sheep Rranch, 30; Salt Valley, 20; Telegraph City, 97; Upper Calaveritas, 43; Vallecito, 82; West Point, 73; Washington Ranch, 40; Total, 2151.

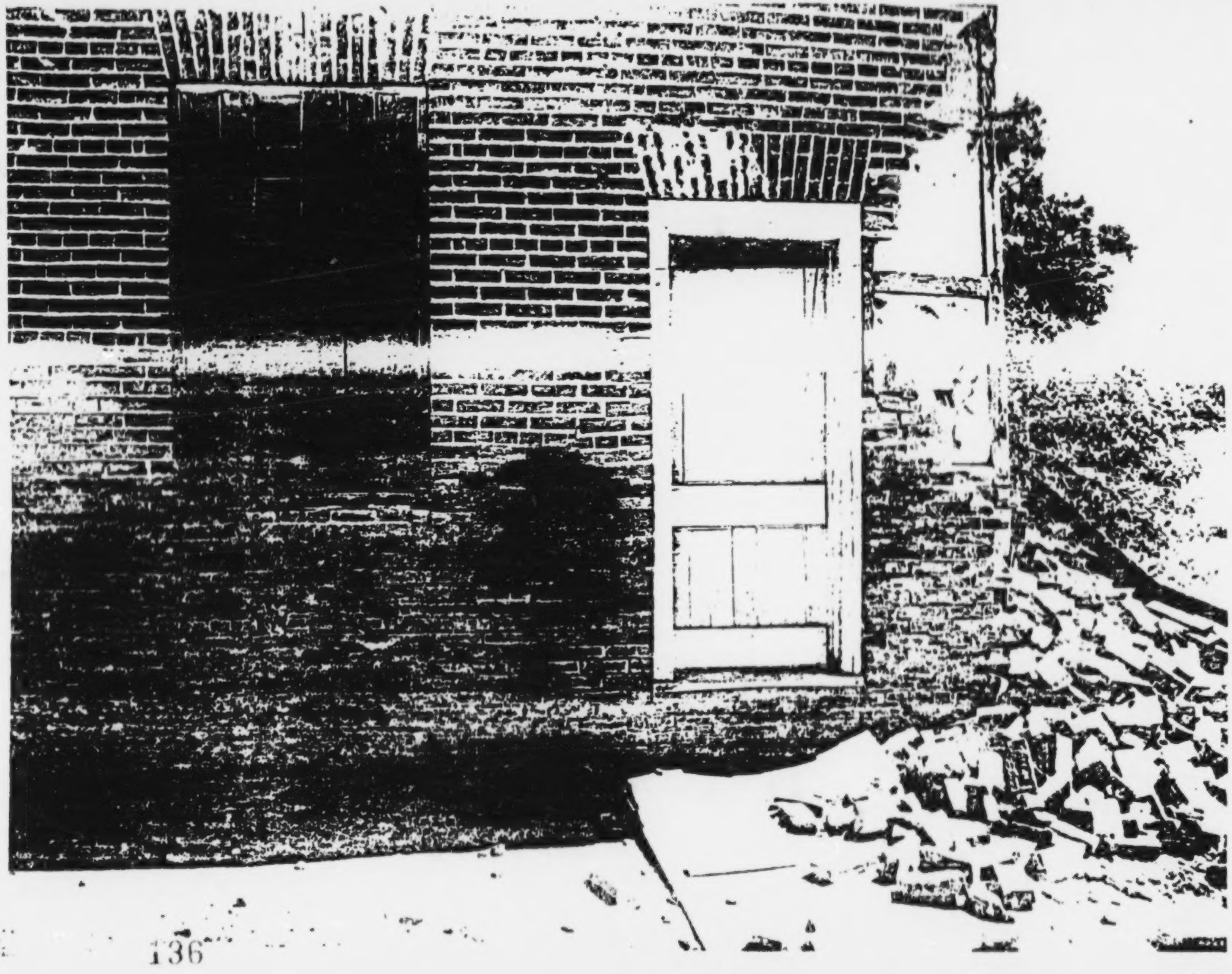
This apparently was the largest enrollment up to this time in the schools of the county and exceeded the present enrollment. The enrollment in 1950 in both elementary and high schools as reported by Superintendent Chas. Schwoerer was 1863. This was slightly more than the 1822 reported in 1861.

By 1890, according to a report of Superintendent William Muner, the number of pupils in the schools had increased to 2424. This was the largest attendance ever reported in the county. He also reported that the county had fifty-three school buildings, one of brick, and employed sixty teachers, twenty-five of whom held grammar grade certificates and thirty-five primary certificates.[13] There were 2407 pupils in attendance in the fifty-seven schools of the county in 1904. The number of pupils was declining but the number of schools had increased by three over the number in operation in 1890. This was the largest number of school districts established. After this there was a decrease to the present twenty-four.

The total number of teachers were then seventy-three, employed at the average salary of $63.07 a month.

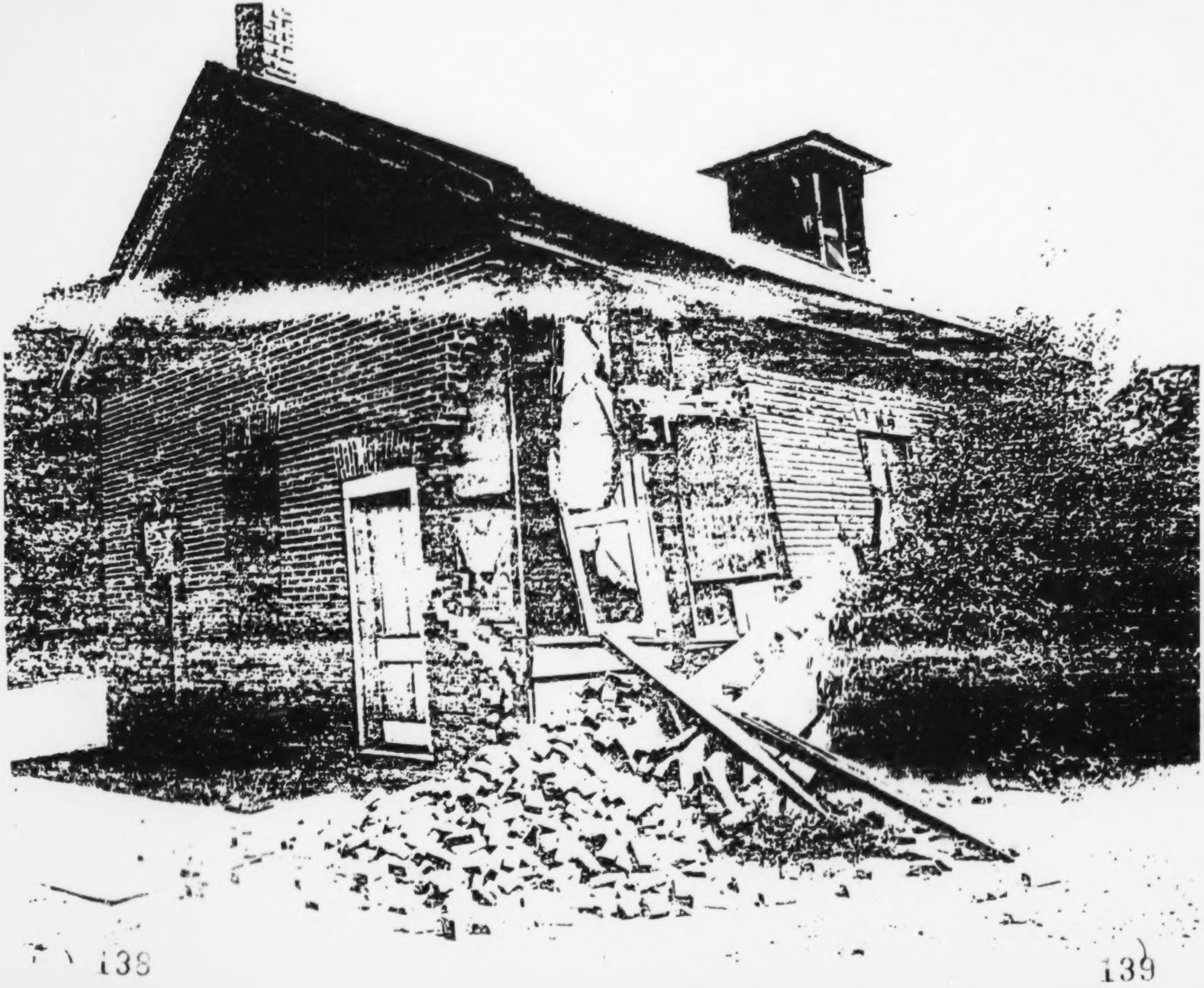
There are many old school buildings in Calaveras County. Many of them should have been replaced with new, modern ones, as they are inadequate. The residents of Douglas Flat claim they have the oldest building in use, giving the date 1854 for its construction.[14] There are no records that substantiate this claim, but the oldtimers say it was built the same year the first little school was built in Murphys.

The enrollment must have been rather small at Douglas Flat because on June 7, 1859, the Board of Supervisors ordered the Douglas Flat and Murphys School consolidated under the name of Murphys District.[15]



136

137



138

139

The Altaville Grammar School

The Altaville Grammar School was erected in 1858, which makes it one of the oldest grammar schools in California. Built of brick manufactured in a local kiln, the building measures twenty-four feet wide by thirty-six feet long. The land upon which the school originally stood was donated by M. D. Harmon. Most of the funds required to build the school were raised at a dance held in the billiard room of the Prince & Garibardi building, with the furnishings being financed by various social events in the community. An item in the San Andreas Independent of January 8, 1859, notes: "The new schoolhouse is nearly completed. It stands upon a beautiful natural eminence and presents quite a pleasing ornament as well as a useful appendage to the town." It remained in use until 1950. Left alone and abandoned, the building was on the verge of collapse when, in 1981, a campaign was launched to save the historic structure. The Calaveras County Historical Society spearheaded the project, and along with the County of Calaveras, Angels Camp, and local citizenry, helped to raise $28,000 to restore and move the school to its present site near Hwy 49. The 90-ton building was moved in December of 1983, and in 1989 the final restoration was completed. The historical society currently maintains the structure, whose front portion is generally open, allowing visitors a look at the typical schoolroom of the last century.